



Higurashi

WHEN THEY CRY

3

FESTIVAL
ACCOMPANYING
ARC

STORY BY
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ART BY
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Figurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL
ACCOMPANYING ARC





Higurashi

WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARE

3

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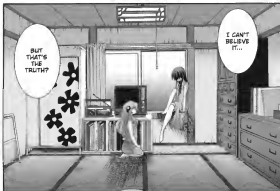
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CHAPTER 19: HOPES AND SCHEMES



BUT
THAT'S
THE
TRUTH?

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT...



THE ONE
CLAIMING TO BE
ONIGIRI-SAMA,
ENACTING THE
CURSE, KILLING
YOU EVERY
TIME...

YES,
SIR.



YOU
AND I
BOTH
SAW HER
PLAIN
AS DAY,
SIR.



IT WAS
TAKANO,
SIR.



THAT MUST
BE WHY THIS
HAPPENED,
SIR. I DIDN'T
HAVE ENOUGH
POWER TO
REWIND YOU.

BUT MY
POWER IS
WEAKEN-
ING...



WHY
DOES
TAKANO
KILL
ME?

I STILL
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND...



TO
THINK YOU
WOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO
REMEMBER
THE LAST
WORLD...



DON'T
THINK THAT THE
DIE INSTITUTE
AND THE
MIND DOES
PROTECT
ME?

I'M
THE QUEEN
CARRIER.
MY DEATH
WOULD MEAN
DISASTER.

IF THAT WERE
TO HAPPEN, ALL
TWO THOUSAND
RESIDENTS OF
HINAKIZAKA WOULD
BROW BEARDED
AND SUSPICIOUS
AND KILL EACH
OTHER. IT WOULD
BE A DISASTER OF
UNPRECEDENTED
PROPORTIONS.

THEY SAY
THAT IF
THE GUESS
CARRIER
DIES...

...EVERYONE
IN THE VILLAGE
WILL BREAK OUT
IN THE TERMINAL
SYMPTOMS OF
HINAKIZAKA
SYNDROME...

BUT
THIS
IS THE
MOST
CLASSIFIED
OF CLASSIFIED
INFORMATION.

THE EXISTENCE OF
HINAKIZAKA
SYNDROME
IS CAREFULLY
CONCEALED
FROM THE
REST OF THE
WORLD.



...THE EMI
INSTITUTE'S
SECRET
FORCE, THE
WILD DOGS,
KEEPS CLOSE
WATCH
OVER ME.

SO
TO MAKE
SURE
NOTHING
HAPPENS
TO ME...







...THEY'RE
MUCH TOO
POWER-
FUL...!



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...WE
KNOW WHO OUR ENEMIES
ARE, BUT
THEY'RE...



IN THAT
WORLD,
TEPPEI
HOUO
CAME
BACK.



...THE
WORST
KIND OF
WORLD...

TEPPEI



RIKA,
PLEASE
LISTEN.

IN THE
LAST
WORLD, WE
LEARNED AN
IMPORTANT
LESSON.



...AND
AMBUSHED
TEPPEL
RIGHT?

...AND I
MET KENJI
OR SAKO OR
ONE OF OUR
FRIENDS
SAC-
CUMBED TO
HINAKAZANA
SYNDROME
...

IN A MATTER
OF DAYS,
SATOKO WAS
MENTALLY
DESTROYED.

NO MATTER
WHAT WE DID,
THE CHILD
CONSULTA-
TION CENTER
WANTED TO
"WAIT AND
SEE."

NO. THAT
DIDN'T
HAPPEN,
SIR.



WHAT?





THERE
COULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
A WORLD
LIKE THAT.
I DON'T
BELIEVE IT.



...YOU'RE
LYING.



EVEN WHEN
WE THOUGHT
THINGS WOULD
BE OKAY.
EVERYTHING
ALWAYS ENDED
IN FAILURE.
ALWAYS.

IN EVERY
OTHER
WORLD, KEIICH OR
SHION OR
RIKA WOULD
BE VICTIM TO THE
DIS-
ASTER.



THERE
IS A WAY TO
KEEP THE
SYMPTOMS AT
BAY, SIR.



...RIKA.



WE
NEVER
FOUND A
WAY TO
BREAK
THE
DEAD-
LOCK!



...AND REALLY
SAVED SATOKO
THE PROPER
WAY, SIR.

THEY
APPEALED
TO THE
CONSULTATION
CENTER...



IN THAT
WORLD,
EVERYONE
WORKED
TOGETHER.

NO ONE
TRIED TO
SOLVE THE
PROBLEM
WITH
VIOLENCE.



AND IT'S
TO GO TO
OTHERS
FOR HELP,
SIR.



BUT
IN THAT
WORLD,
KERO'S
TAUGHT
US, SIR.

WE
HAD
GIVEN
UP...



WE HAD TO
STOP AGREEING
ON OUR OWN,
ASSUMING THAT
NOTHING WE
TRY WILL WORK.
ANYWAY, WE
NEED TO TALK
TO OUR
FRIENDS,
SIR.

IF WE DO
THAT, THE
WAY TO A
SOLUTION
WILL BE
OPENED.

THAT'S
HOW
KEIJI
SAVED
SATOKO.



MIRACLES
DON'T
HAPPEN
UNLESS
YOU
BELIEVE.



AND IF
EVERYONE
BELIEVES,
THE MIRACLE
DEFINITELY
WILL
HAPPEN.

YOU HEAR,
TELL KEIJI
AND THE
OTHERS
ABOUT
TAKANO?

BUT...
TELL TO
THEM
...?



ON
SCREEN!!

7th



TELL THEM
"A BAD
ORGANIZATION
CALLED TOKYO
IS AFTER ME.
I NEED YOUR
HELP!"

AND NOW
REALLY
THINK
THEY'LL
BELIEVE
ME?



KEIJI
...?





THEY
BELIEVED
IN THE
OTHER
WORLD,
SIR!

THEY WILL
BELIEVE
YOU, SIR!



SO
PLEASE.



THE
PLAYERS
ARE
YOU AND
TAKANO.

THIS WILL
BE THE
LAST GAME
PLAYED FOR
JUNE 1999.

I WILL
BELIEVE
WITH
EVERY-
ONE
ELSE.

SO WE
WILL BE
ABLE TO
MAKE A
MIRACLE.



THE WILD
DOGS ARE
JUST ONE OF
TAKANO'S
MANY TOWNS-
FUL GAME
PIECES.

IF YOU
CAN'T BELIEVE
HER WITHIN
THE TIME
LIMIT, YOU
WILL AUTO-
MATICALLY
LOSE.



YOU
DON'T
HAVE TIME
TO WASTE
SITTING
AROUND,
GIRL.

YOU CAN'T
WIN UNLESS
YOU ASK FOR
HELP FROM
EVERYONE AND
COLLECT AN
EQUAL
NUMBER OF
PIECES.



PLEASE,
RIKA.

FIGHT....!



HANYU
...



FOR ONE
THOUSAND
YEARS, SHE
DID NOTHING
BUT BEAR
THE WEIGHT
OF THEIR
SINS.

ALL
SHE COULD
DO WAS
APOLOGIZE
OVER AND
OVER.

BECAUSE
OF THEIR
DARK
BLIND, THE
PEOPLE
WERE
DRIVEN TO
MISERY BY
HUMAN-
MADE SUN-
DROPS.

AFTER
HANYU
STOPPED
SHOWING
HERSELF TO
HUMANS, SHE
SPENT MANY
MANY YEARS
ALONE...

**BUT NOW...
HANYU...**



THANKS
TO YOU
AND ALL
OF OUR
FRIENDS,
SIR.

YOU'VE
CHANGED.

HANYU.

ALL







I SEE
YOU CAN
HOLD YOUR
LIQUOR NOW,
AKASAKA-
SAN.

NN
FU
FU.



AND YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
A BIT,
OGISHI-
SAN.



YOU WERE
HERE TO
INVESTIGATE
THAT
KIDNAPING,
AKAGAKI-
SAN?

HA
HA
HA!

I LIKE TO
THINK
I'VE LOST
A LITTLE
WEIGHT.



I OWE
OGISHI-
SAN A LOT
FOR ALL
THE HELP
HE GAVE
ME BACK
THEN.



YES,
FIVE
YEARS
AGO.



BUT I
HARDLY
RECOGN-
IZED
YOU.



WA-HA-WA! I
DO REMEMBER
KURASUO
SAYING HE'D
PLAYED IN THE
WORST BUN-
SUNG GAME
OF HIS
LIFE.



IT ALWAYS MAKES ME
HAPPY TO
SEE YOUNG
PEOPLE
GROWING.

YOU SEEM
MUCH MORE
DEPENDABLE
NOW.



WHEN
I SEE YOU
GROWING INTO
SUCH FINE
MEN, I SEE
IT REALLY
IS MY TIME
TO MOVE
ON.

I'M
THINKING OF
TAKING MY
OLD LOST TO
HOKKAI DO
TO ENJOY
OUR GOLDEN
YEARS.

I'LL BE
RETIRED
MYSELF
NEXT YEAR.

NN
FU
FU!



SO.

YOU'VE
GOT A
LONG
WAY TO
GO, KU-
MAGAI.

HEY,
WHAT
ABOUT
ME?



YOU'RE
MORE
RELAXED.
AND YOU
HAVE MORE
PRESENCE.

YOU'VE
REALLY
BULKED
UP.



THE TRUTH IS...

...I CAME HERE TO SEE A GIRL NAMED RIKKA FURUDE.



...AND IT REMINDED ME OF THE GIRL, RIKKA FURUDE.

I CAME ACROSS THE NAME IRIS CLING IN SOME POLICE REPORTS...

MY WIFE
WAS HERE IN
THE HOSPITAL,
WAITING TO
GIVE BIRTH
TO OUR
DAUGHTER. I
CALLED HER
AND TOLD HER
TO BE EXTRA-
CAREFUL.

I
REMOVED
SOME-
THING OUT
OF THE
ORDINARY

AND SHE
WARNED ME
THAT IF I
DIDN'T GO
BACK TO
FOCUS, SOME-
THING TER-
RIBLE WOULD
HAPPEN.

I ONCE
CAME TO
HONOLULU-
DAVE ON
AN INVESTI-
GATION.

PLUMB AND
BRICK TOL-
ING WALKS
UP TO
THE ROOF
EVERY DAY,
BUT SHE
STOPPED.

SOON
AFTER
THAT...

THERE
WAS AN
ACCIDENT
AND ONE
OF THE
CUSTODIAL
WORKERS
WAS BADLY
HURT

...A TILE
CAME
LOOSE ON
THE STAIRS
LEADING
UP TO THE
ROOF.



I REMEM-
BERED
ALL ABOUT IT









OH,
SO YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT.



...AND WAS
HIS BODY
CUT INTO
PIECES?



WE STILL
HAVEN'T
FOUND
HIS RIGHT
ARM...

IT'S
JUST
AS YOU
SAID.



AGAIN!!



THEN IN
1980...



...SATOKO'S
PARENTS
WILL BE
PUSHED
OFF A CLIFF
AND DIE.

ON THAT
DAY IN
JUNE
1980...



DID THE
PARENTS
OF A GIRL
NAMED
SATOKO
DIE IN A
FALL?





AND
AGAIN
...!



THAT'S RIGHT.
MR. AND MRS.
HOOD FELL
OFF A VIEWING
PLATFORM.

YOU'RE
VERY
WELL-IN-
FORMED.



WE WERE
ORDERED
TO KEEP THE
INVESTIGATION
OF THE FOURTH
YEAR'S MURDER
TIGHTLY UNDER
WRAPS.

BUT
YOU CAN'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THE NEXT
ONE.

YOU CERTAIN-
LY KNOW A
GREAT DEAL
ABOUT
CHASING-
SAM'S CURSE.



NO, I
KNOW.



YOU MAY BE
WITH THE
POLICE, BUT
YOU CAN'T
POSSIBLY
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED
THAT YEAR.



...WAS
BEATEN
OVER THE
HEAD AND
KILLED.
AM I
RIGHT?

...SATOKO'S
MALICIOUS
AUNT WILL
HAVE HER
HEAD SPLIT
OPEN, AND
SHE WILL DIE.

ON THIS
DAY IN THE
NEXT YEAR,
1982...

1982 —
LAST
YEAR

THE AUNT
OF THE
AFORE-
MENTIONED
SATOKO...





...BUT
THAT
DOESN'T
SEEM TO
BE THE
CASE.

I'D SAY
HE HAD
ACCESS TO
THE REPORTS
ON THE DEATHS
BECAUSE HE'S
WITH PUBLIC
SECURITY.



HOW
DO YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT
AKASAKA-
SANT?

IS-
RIGHT ON THE
NOSE.



NO,
IT'S
NOT.



SH...?



AND I
KNOW
THE NAME
OF THIS
YEAR'S
MURDER
VICTIM.

...IS RIKA
FURUDE.

THE
ONE WHO
WILL BE
MURDERED
IN JUNE OF
2003...





SHE WILL
BE THE
NEXT
VICTIM.



SO
CARE



EVERYONE
IN HINAGI-
ZAKA
LOVES HER
DEARLY.

THAT'S
IMPOS-
SIBLE!

PEOPLE
SAY RIKA-
CHAMA IS THE
REINCARNATION
OF OMIKOTO-
SAMA.



RIKA-
CHAMA
...?



RIKI
PURIDE
KNEW
EVERY-
THING.



WHAT THE
HELL IS
GOING ON
HERE?

AKA-
SARA-
SAN...



...AND
SHE TOLD
IT ALL TO
ME.

SHE
KNEW
IN JUNE
1978...



AND
THEN
—

...I'LL
TELL YOU
EVERY-
THING.



IN
1978
...?P







AND
WE'LL
HEAR IT
FROM
THE GIRL
HERSELF

LET'S
GO,
COUSIN-
SAN.

ALL
RIGHT.



THE TRUTH
ABOUT RIKA
FURUDE...!



Thank
you for
speaking
with me
the other
day, Major
Takano.



Thanks to
your detailed
report, those
in the Ministry
of Health and
Welfare have
come to under-
stand just
what a threat
Swordsmen
Syndrome
could be.

Now
every-
thing
is in
place.

NOWURA-
SAN...



...WE WILL
COMMENCE
OPERATION
APOCALYPSE.

LATE
ON THE
NIGHT OF
JUNE 22ND...
ONE WEEK
FROM
NOW...



JAPAN WILL
FALL INTO
A STATE OF
PANIC.

THEN, AS
IT STARTS
IN YOUR
RESEARCH

THE TWO
TWO-STAR
UNITED
NATIONS
WILL
NOT WITHIN
FORTY-SEVEN
HOURS



TO PRE-
VENT SUCH
A SCENARIO,
THERE WILL
BE NO CHOICE
BUT TO ENACT
EMERGENCY
MEASURES

I HAVE
EVERY
CONFIDENCE
THAT THE
PRIME MIN-
ISTER WILL
FOLLOW
THROUGH



Operation
Apoca-
lypse
will be
complete.



YOU WILL
KILL THE
QUEEN
CARRIER,
R.



HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH...

MAJOR
TAKANO...
YOU AND
YOUR GRAND-
FATHER
WILL
BECOME
GODS.



HEH
HEH
HEH...

BECAUSE
OF IT,
MY OWN
WORK IS
PROGRESS-
ING VERY
NICE!



...
HELLO?

...YES,
IT'S
ME.



YES,
TAKANO-
SAN...

...YOUR
RESEARCH
TRULY IS
WONDER-
FUL...



OPERATION
APOCALYPSE
IS PRO-
CEEDING AS
PLANNED.

THE
PRIME MIN-
ISTER WILL
AUTHORIZE
THE USE OF
EMERGENCY
MANUAL
24.



...TAKA-
SHIRO
SPEAKING.

THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR
HELP THE
OTHER
DAY.



THEN THE
EXECUTIVE
MANAGER
WILL BE IN
THE PALM
OF OUR
HANDS...



THE CHUNG
AND CHANG
FAMILIES THAT
FORMERLY WERE
WITH KOREAN
WILL LOSE
MUCH OF THEIR
INFLUENCE.

WHEN
ALL DONE,
THE PEOPLE
CONDUCTING
THIS DANGEROUS
RESEARCH WILL
BE FORCED
TO TAKE THE
BLAME.



WE WERE
ABSOLUTELY
RIGHT TO
BRING MIYO
TAKANO
INTO THIS.

SHE'S
BEEN
A MOST
USEFUL
PIECE.

HEH-HEH-
HEH-HEH-
HEH-HEH-
HEH.

WE WILL
MAKE
OPERATION
APOCA-
LYPSE A
SUCCESS.

ONE LITTLE
VILLAGE IS A
SMALL PRICE
TO PAY FOR
THE ENTIRETY
OF JAPAN.





CHAPTER 20: THE STRENGTH OF ALL

A VERY GOOD MORNING TO YOU!









I'LL
BE GIVING
YOU YOUR
MONTHLY
CHECKUPS
TODAY!

IRIE...



IRIE-
SENSEN
NONE OF
THAT AT
SCHOOL,
IF YOU
PLEASE!

YOU'LL
WALK TO BE
DOCK
FLOOR!

WHAT
DOES
THAT
MEAN?

THAT'S
AGAINST
SCHOOL
RULES.

I SEE
YOU DON'T
HAVE
A HAND
HEADBAND
ON YOUR
HEAD.



...IRIE.

IF I
TALK TO
IRIE, I
CAN GET
DIRECTLY
TO THE
POINT.



HE'S
BEEN ON
THE INSIDE
SINCE THE
BEGINNING.

RIGHT...
IRIE IS
RESEARCHING
MINA-
KIZAWA
SYN-
DROME.



.....?



I WOULD
LIKE TO
TALK TO
YOU ALONE,
SIR...



SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICE



TAKANO-
SAN IS
GOING
TO KILL
YOU?



NO...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

NOT SO LOUD,
IREE, SIR.



SHE
WOULD BE
THE FIRST
IN LINE TO
PROTECT YOU,
IREE-SAN.
FOR THE
SAKE OF HER
RESEARCH.

AND YOU'RE
SAYING SHE'S
GOING TO KILL
YOU? FOR
ONE THING,
SHE HAS NO
MOTIVE.

TAKANO-
SAN IS THE
LEADER OF
THE HUMANITARIAN
SYNDROME
RESEARCH
INITIATIVE.



TAKANO
HAS NO
REASON
TO KILL
ME.

...HE'S
RIGHT.



AND IF
THAT WERE
TO HAPPEN,
FURTHER
RESEARCH ON
KIDAMIZAWA
SYNDROME
WOULD BE
OUT OF THE
QUESTION.

IF THE
QUEEN CARRIER
DIED, ALL THE
VILLAGERS IN
KIDAMIZAWA
WILL BREAK OUT
IN THE FINAL
STAGES OF THE
SYNDROME. IT
WOULD BE AN
ENORMOUS
DISASTER.





EMERGENCY
MEASURES
...?

...BUT
EMERGENCY
MEASURES
HAVE BEEN PUT
IN PLACE IN CASE
THE VILLAGERS
EVER SHOW
SIGNS OF A
MASS OUT-
BREAK.

...WE
NEVER
TOLD YOU
THIS,
DADA-
SAN...



IF THE
WORLD
SHOULD
HAPPEN,
THE
SITUATION
WILL BE DEALT
WITH ACCORD-
ING TO THE
MEASURES.

IT'S
SOMETHING
CALLED
EMER-
GENCY
MEASURES.
IS.



...CAN
YOU GIVE
ME A
SPECIFIC
IDEA OF
WHAT
WOULD
HAPPEN,
GIRL?



7...



...
WELL
...



IN THREE YEARS, IT WILL BE AS IF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME NEVER EXISTED



SHE COULDN'T GET THEM TO OVER-THINK THE DECISION.

TAKANO-SAN WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE CAPITAL TO PERSUADE THEM TO RECONSIDER... BUT ONLY MET WITH CRITICISM.



AT THE REQUEST OF OUR SUPERIORS, THE RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME...
...WILL BE STOPPED WITHIN THREE YEARS.



IT'S A DISTURBING THOUGHT... I DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU.

NO ONE EVER TOLD ME...



THERE'S ONE MORE REASON TAKANO-SAN WOULD NEVER KILL YOU.



AND THEY'VE BEEN ENACTING THAT HORROROUS EVERY TIME I DIED...?

SO IF I DIE, ALL OF HINAMIZAWA WILL BE WIPED OUT?



WHAT...?!

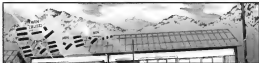


IF I
KNOW
TAKANO-
SAN...SHE
WOULD
WANT...

...TO
USE THESE
THREE YEARS
TO TAKE THE
RESEARCH
AS FAR AS
SHE CAN.



NO ONE
CARES
ABOUT THIS
RESEARCH
MORE THAN
TAKANO-SAN
DOES.





I DON'T
KNOW...

RIKAI

I FEEL
LIKE THINGS
ARE EVEN
LESS BARE
NOW.

DID YOU
MAKE ANY
PROG-
RESS,
BIRD?



THERE
WON'T BE
AN OUT-
BREAK
IF I
DIE.

IN
FACT, THE
VILLAGE
WILL BE
DESTROYED,
AND THERE
WILL BE NO
HOPE OF CON-
TROLLING THE
RESEARCH.



IF WE
CAN'T FIND
A MOTIVE
FOR TAKANO
TO KILL ME,
THEN WE
CAN'T GET
THE SHOW-
UPS LIKE
ERE OR
SOMEBODY
TO BELIEVE
ME.

WE
HAVE
TO DO
SOME-
THING...

EVEN IF
TAKANO WERE
TO DO SOME-
THING DRIP-
PING, IT'S
UNLIKELY THAT
WE WOULD DO
IT NOW WHEN
WE STILL
ARE THREE
YEARS

TAKANO HAS
DECIDED TO
CANCEL THE
HUMANITARIAN
RESEARCH
IN THREE
YEARS





M-MEW...
TH-THAT'S
RIGHT,
SIR.

IT'S MY
SECRET
HOBBY,
SIR...

YOU'RE
WRITING A
MANGA?







AND YOU'RE
HAPPY WITH THIS
RESEARCHER
WHO'S WORKING
FOR THE
"FORGOT"
SECRET
SOCIETY, RIGHT?

A STORY ABOUT A
VILLAGE
THAT GETS
DESTROYED
IN THE
QUEEN
DISC.
HMM...?

THAT'S
SOME
STORY,
YOU
DON'T
TAKE...

YES,
SIR.



...AND I
CAN'T COME
UP WITH
A MOTIVE
FOR THE
MURDER.

...SO
THAT'S WHAT
I'VE THOUGHT
OF SO FAR, BUT
THE VILLAIN IS
TRYING TO KILL
THE MAIN
GIRL...



YOU'RE
GOOD,
HONEY...

THEY ALL
ACCEPTED
MY STORY
JUST LIKE
THAT...



HEH...

WHY
WOULD SHE
DO THAT,
SIR...? I
CAN'T GET
THE PIECES
OF THE
STORY TO
FIT.

BUT
SHE'S TRYING
TO KILL
THE QUEEN
CANDIDATE AND
END IT ALL,
SIR.

...THAT
RESEARCHER
WOULD PROBABLY
LIKE TO
KEEP THE
RESEARCH
GOING LONGER.



HA-HA?



IN
OTHER
WORDS
...

YOU
JUST
HAVE TO
MAKE
THE PLOT
THICKER!



SCREAM
CRIES

1P
#

WA
HA
HA
HA!

IS THAT
ALL?
THAT'S A
PIECE OF
CAKE!



MASTERMIND

ONE WHO'S
TRYING TO
USE THE EVIL
RESEARCHER
FOR HER OWN
PURPOSES!

...YOU
JUST
HAVE TO
ADD
ANOTHER
MASTER-
MIND.

RESEARCHER



A MASTER-
MIND WHO'S
MANIPU-
LATING
TAKANO...?



... YOU
JUST HAVE
TO MAKE IT
BENEFIT THE
MASTER-
MIND

EVEN IF
DESTROYING
THE VILLAGE
WOULDN'T
BENEFIT THE
RESEARCH-
ER...



I BET
OPPOSING
FORCES
CLASH
WITH EACH
OTHER
EVERY
DAY

IN A BIG
ORGANIZATION
LIKE THIS
"TOKIO,"
THERE'S SURE
TO BE ALL
KINDS OF
DIFFERENT
FACTIONS



OF
COURSE!
TONS OF
PEOPLE!

IS THERE
ANYONE
THAT WOULD
DARE PLEDGE
DESTROYING
AN ENTIRE
VILLAGE,
DAD?



THAT
MEANS THOU-
SANDS OF
VILLAGERS
WERE
SLAUGHTERED
BECAUSE OF
FACTION A'S
RESEARCH.



BUT
THE MAIN
CHARACTER
DIES, AND THE
VILLAGE IS
DESTROYED TO
CONTROL THE
OUTBREAK
SITUATION.

SO SAY
YOU HAVE
FACTION A
TRYING TO
KEEP THE
RESEARCH
GOING.



IT WOULD
TURN INTO A
BIG DEBATE
OVER WHO'S
AT FAULT.



HEH
HEH
HEH...
EX-
ACTLY.

I GET IT...
IF THERE'S
A GROUP
THAT
WANTS TO
KICK OUT
FACTION A
AND TAKE
THEIR
PLACE...

...MAKING
THE BIG
MISTAKE BY
KILLING OFF
THE MAIN
CHARACTER
WOULD ONLY
BENEFIT
THEM.



SO THE
STORY
GOES
LIKE
THIS...



THEN
THE OTHER
FACTIONS—
ESPECIALLY
A'S BIGGEST
OPPOSING
FORCE—
WOULD LOVE
TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE
OF THAT OP-
PORTUNITY.

FACTION
A WOULD
LOSE THEIR
INFLUENCE,
AND THEY'D
FALL FROM
POWER.

...AND
SETS HER
FOOT ON
THE DOWN-
FALLING
EVL. RE-
SEARCHER.

THAT'S
WHEN SOME-
ONE FROM
FACTORY
IS COMING
ALONG,
WANTING
TO PUSH
A BUT OF
POWER...

WITH NO
HOPE OF
SALVA-
TION, SHE
IS DEEPLY
ALERT AND
SUFFER-
ING...

THE
RESEARCHER
HEARS THAT
THE WOMAN
SHE'S SPENT
HALF OF HER
LIFE ON WILL
BE CUT OFF
IN THREE
YEARS.

SHE
MAKES AN
APPEAL TO
TOKYO BUT
ALL SHE GETS
IS A TON OF
VERBAL
ABUSE.



"I'M
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
UNDER-
STANDS
YOUR RE-
SEARCH.

"WE'LL
DESTROY
THE VILLAGE
AND MAKE
THOSE IN
POWER
UNDERSTAND
ITS GREAT-
NESS."

...AND
SHE IS
EASILY
WON
OVER.

THE
NORMALLY
PROUD AND
DAUNTLESS
RESEARCHER'S
BROKEN
HEART IS
SHAKEN...





THEN THE
RESEARCHER
STANDS UP

"I'LL KILL
THE QUEEN
AND PUT AN
END TO THE
RESEARCH
MYSELF."

"IF SOME-
ONE IS GOING
TO DESTROY
MY RESEARCH
ANYWAY, THEN
I MIGHT AS
WELL BE THE
ONE TO
BURY IT."





WHAT
...?

TO THINK SHE'D BE
ABLE TO
REDUCE SO
MUCH WITH
SO LITTLE
INFORMATION...

SHE'S RIGHT...
CONSIDERING
TAKANO'S
PERSONALITY,
THAT'S NOT AN
IMPOSSIBLE
TASK.



BECAUSE
THAT'S
WHAT THE
MASTERMIND
WANTS.

UHH...BUT
WHY WOULD
SHE END THE
RESEARCH
NOW WHEN
SHE STILL
HAS THREE
YEARS LEFT,
SEE?



I THINK
THAT NOW
WOULD BE THE
BEST TIME FOR
THEM TO DEAL
THE MOST
DAMAGE TO
FACTION A.

THERE
ARE CERTAIN
OTHER FACTORS,
LIKE THE BEST
TIMING TO PRO-
CEED THE TOP
BRASS TO ENACT
THE EMERGENCY
MANUAL AFTER
THE QUEEN IS
KILLED...

...AND
ADVANCE
PREPARA-
TIONS FOR
LAYING THE
BLAME AFTER
THE OPERA-
TION.



...MM.
THAT
MAKES
SENSE,
SIR...



AND THE
RESEARCHER
WOULDN'T
CARE ABOUT
THE EXTRA
THREE
YEARS.

SHE
DOESN'T
SEE THE THREE
YEARS AS A
GRACE PERIOD.
SHE FEELS MORE
LIKE SHE'S BEEN
SENTENCED TO
DIE IN THREE
YEARS.



THEY'RE
ANALYZING
THIS AS IF
THEY'VE BEEN
WATCHING
TAKANO'S
EVERY
MOVE...

THEY
TRULY
ARE...
AMAZ-
ING...



THIS IS
THE MOST
IMPORTANT
PART...

TH-
THEN...
WILL YOU
TELL ME,
SIRS?



BUT THE
HEROINE
WAS NO
POWER.
SHE'S
JUST A
HELPLESS
LITTLE
GIRL...

SHE'S
FIGHTING
AGAINST
GROWING-UP
WITH A BIG
ORGANIZA-
TION ON
THEIR
SIDE.



THAT
IS A
HARD
ONE.

...SO
SHE'S A
TRUE-
TO-LIFE
HEROINE?



...HOW
CAN THE
HEROINE
STAND
AND FIGHT
AGAINST
THIS EVIL
ORGANIZA-
TION,
SIRS?







THEIR
INTELLIGENCE
NETWORK AND
PERSONAL
CONNECTIONS ARE
NOTHING TO GIBBERE
IT, RIGHT? AND
THEY'VE PROBABLY
GOT SOME
SPECIAL FORCES
TOO.

AND YOU
WANT ONE
LITTLE GIRL
TO FIGHT
AGAINST ALL
THAT? IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE.

I MEAN,
SHE'S UP
AGAINST
THAT BIG
"TOKYO"
ORGANIZATION,
RIGHT?



I KNOW,
RIGHT?
EVEN THIS
OLD MAN'D
HAVE A
HARD TIME
WITH THAT
SITUATION.

YEAH,
THERE'S
JUST
NOTHING IN
THERE THAT
COULD HELP
HER WIN.

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA HA!



OKAY,
THEN,
HOW
ABOUT
THIS?



IT WOULD BE
ONE THING IF
SHE TURNED
OUT TO BE
AN S-RANK
HUNTER WHO
COMES FROM A
LONG LINE OF
ADULTS.

HA-
HA-HA.
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

NO...



...AND A
GIRL WITH
THE SPECIAL
ABILITY TO
CONFUSE
ENEMY TROOPS
WITH NOTHING
BUT HER OWN
ORIGINAL
TRAPS...

YOU HAVE
A COMBAT
EXPERT, WHO
CAN HANDLE
ANY WEAPON
AND LEAD A
PLATOON...



...AS THE
HEROINE'S
FRIENDS.







WE'LL
ALL WORK
TOGETHER
TO TAKE
DOWN THE
ENEMY!

THEN
LET'S MAKE
ALL OF US
THE MAIN
CHARACTERS
OF THIS
MANGA,
GIRLS!



NO ONE
COULD
EVER
BEAT US
IN A
FIGHT IN
THIS VIL-
LAGE!

KEEP
HER
AWAY!
THAT EVIL
ORGANI-
ZATION'S
OUT OF
LIGHT!



HEY, FINE!
THAT MEANS
IT'S OUR
CLUB!
WE'VE
AN EVIL
ORGANI-
ZATION!

FRANK I
WOULDN'T
HAVE
IT ANY
OTHER
WAY!



I KNOW
MORIYA'S
LEADERSHIP
SKILL,
RENA'S
ATHLETIC
ABILITIES,
AND KENTA'S
CLEVER-
NESS.

I'VE SEEN
IT ALL IN
THE MANY
YEARS I'VE
SPENT IN
THIS CLUB.

I KNOW HOW
INCREDIBLE
SATO'S
MOUNTAIN
TRAPS ARE.



...THAT
THEY
ARE.

SEE,
RENA?
EVERYONE
IS SO
RELIABLE.
SEE.



...THEN
MAYBE...
EVEN
THE WILD
DOGS...

IF I CAN
FIGHT
ALONGSIDE
THEM AND
ON MY
HOME TURF
IN KENARI-
ZAKA...



WHY
DIDN'T
I COME
TO THEM
SOONER?

...I HAVE
SUCH
POWERFUL
ALLIES.



*YOU MAY
NOT BE ABLE
TO DO IT BY
YOURSELF,
BUT WE CAN
DO IT IF WE
WORK
TOGETHER,
SOL.*



*IT MAY BE
ABSOLUTELY
IMPOSSIBLE
ON MY OWN...*

*...BUT IF WE
ALL WORK
TOGETHER,
I KNOW WE
CAN MAKE A
MIRACLE...*



MR.
EVERY-
ONE.

...I NEED
MORE
IDEAS,
GIRLS.

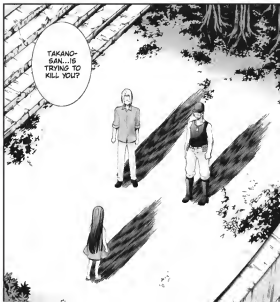


I WANT
YOU TO
GIVE ME
ALL THE
IDEAS
YOU'VE
GOT,
GIRLS...

WHAT
SHOULD WE
DO TO BEAT
THIS EVIL
PLOT?



CHAPTER 21: REUNION





TAKANO-SAN WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING SO TERRIBLE...



...AND TOLD THEM THAT TAKANO PLANS TO TAKE MY LIFE...

AFTER TALKING IT OVER WITH MY FRIENDS, I CALLED IRU AND TOMOTAKE...



DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S UNFAIR TO TAKANO-SAN...?



HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK THAT SHE WOULD KILL YOU?

SHE'S BEEN NOTHING BUT KIND TO YOU AND SATOKO-CHAN.



TOMI-
TAKA.

I AGREE.
IN HER
RIGHT MIND,
TAKANO
WOULD NEVER
DREAM OF
KILLING
ME, SIR.



TAKANO
MUST
BE VERY
HURT,
SIR.



IN
HER
RIGHT
MIND
...?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



...AND
NOW SHE
ONLY HAS
THREE
YEARS TO
FINISH
IT.

TAKANO
IS UNDER
A LOT OF
PRESSURE
RIGHT
NOW.

SHE'S SPENT
HER WHOLE
LIFE ON THIS
RESEARCH...



HOW DO
YOU KNOW
THAT...?

IT'S
TRUE.
TAKANO-
SAN IS
HURT...



THEY
MADE IT
SEEM LIKE
IT'S NOTHING
BUT A
WASTE OF
RESOURCES

...BASED
ON WHAT
I'VE HEARD,
THEY
ABUSED
THE STUDY
RESENT-
MENT



SHE WENT
TO THE
CAPITAL TO
APPEAL
FOR AN
EXTENSION

THE NEW
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
HAS
DECIDED TO
DISCONTINUE
THE RE-
SEARCH



...THE
HINAKIWA
SYNDROME
RESEARCH
HAS NO
FUTURE...

IN
OTHER
WORDS,
DESPITE
ALL OF
TAKANO'S
STRUG-
GLES...



THEN
DON'T YOU
THINK IT'S
POSSIBLE
THAT IF IT'S
GOING TO
BE STOPPED
ANYWAY...

...SHE MAY
RESORT TO
SELF-
DESTRUCTIVE
BEHAVIOR?



...I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY TAKANO-SAN...MIGHT RESORT TO THAT.

...I...



AND A BROKEN HEART IS EASY TO MANIPULATE.

TAKANO'S MIND IS VERY UNSTABLE RIGHT NOW, SIR.



BUT WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH HER KILLING YOU?



ONE OF THOSE FACTIONS THOUGHT TAKANO WOULD MAKE A GOOD PUPPET.



THIS "TOWER" THAT TAKANO IS A PART OF -- THERE ARE MANY POWERS SWIRLING AROUND INSIDE IT.

THERE ARE FACTIONAL DISPUTES, AREN'T THERE, SIR?







SO I WANT
YOU TO BE
VERY, VERY
CAREFUL.
NO MATTER
WHAT, SIR...

TOMITAKE
DIES EVERY
TIME AS THE
FIFTH YEAR'S
VICTIM OF
OYASHIRO-
SAMA'S
CURSE.

MOST LIKELY
IT'S BECAUSE
TOMITAKE,
THE LIAISON
WITH TOKYO,
STANDS IN
TAKANO'S
WAY

...I SENSE
THAT YOU
WILL BE
MURDERED
VERY SOON,
SIR.

TOMI-
TAKE,
SIR...

EH...?



*...PLEASE...
HEAR ME...!*



*BUT
THIS IS
THE LAST
WORLD.*

*YOU NEVER
TOOK MY
WARNINGS
SERIOUSLY.
NOT ONCE.*





...THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME YOU'VE
EVER
BELIEVED
ME, SIR...

THANK
YOU FOR
BELIEVING
ME, SIR!



OUT OF
ALL THE
WORLDS
I'VE LIVED IN,
THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME...

I FINALLY
GOT
FORNATE
TO LISTEN
TO ME!



THE FIRST
TIME I GOT
THE CLUB
MEMBERS TO
ANALYZE IT
FOR ME...



THE
FIRST
TIME I
HEARD THE
SITUATION
FROM
IRIE...



I
COULDN'T
DO ANY-
THING
WHEN
I JUST
MOVED
AROUND
BY MY-
SELF.

BUT WHEN
I WENT TO
OTHERS
FOR ADVICE,
EVERYTHING
STARTED TO
CHANGE ALL
AT ONCE.

AND THANKS
TO ALL THAT,
THE FIRST TIME
I MANAGED TO
CONVINCE
TOMITAKE!



WITH THEM,
MAYBE....!

TOMITAKE AND
IRIE WILL BE
POWERFUL
ALLIES IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST
TAKANO.





NN
FU
FU...

WELL, ISN'T
THIS AN
UNUSUAL
ASSORTMENT.



OOISHI
and

HELLO,
EVERYONE.





...BUT I
CAN'T HAVE
THEM TAKING
ANY OFFEN-
SIVE ACTION
NOW WHILE
I'M TRYING
TO OUTHIT
TAKANO.

NOT
ONLY
COULD
THEY COM-
PLICATE
EVERY-
THING...



THE
POLICE
CAN'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THIS
NOW.

...HOW
UNLUCKY
COULD I
BE...?



...OOISHI...
WE'RE
BUSY
RIGHT
NOW,
SIR.

IF YOU
DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING
TO SAY,
THEN
COME BACK
LATER,
SIR.



I CAME
HERE
TODAY FOR
ONLY ONE
REASON.

MY, MY,
THAT'S
NOT VERY
NICE.



I'VE
BROUGHT
AROUND AN
OLD FRIEND
OF YOURS,
RIKA-SAN.



I WONDER
IF YOU
REMEMBER
HIM.

AN OLD
FRIEND...?



AFTER WE
CAME ALL
THIS WAY...
IF YOU
FORGOT
HIM, HE
MIGHT
JUST
CRY.



...EH?

BUT

...

**...WHO
ELSE...**





**...COULD
IT BE?**

**IT'S
GOOD TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN.**



**RIKA-
CHAN.**



YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL ME TO GO BACK TO TOKYO THIS TIME, ARE YOU?



AHH...



...WHY... ARE YOU HERE...?

WH...



BUT IF I HADN'T REMEMBERED, I'M SURE I WOULD'VE REGRETTED IT IMMENSELY.



...NO, ACTUALLY, MAYBE I HAD FORGOTTEN.

RIKA-CHAN... YOU ASKED ME TO HELP YOU. AND I REMEMBERED.



...I
FINALLY
REMEM-
BERED.



...I FEEL
LIKE I
REALLY HAD
FORGOTTEN
FOR A LONG
TIME.

BUT...



I'M SORRY
I MADE YOU
WAIT FOR
SO LONG.



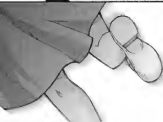
AND NOW,
IN THE
VERY LAST
WORLD...

...HOW NICE
OF YOU TO
FINALLY
SHOW UP
RIGHT IN THE
FRICKING
NICK OF
TIME, SIR!



...KEEP ME
WAITING A
LONG DAMN
TIME, SIR...

...R...
YOU
REALLY
DID...



— NM!



**AKA-
SAKA!!**







I DIDN'T
THINK ANY-
ONE HERE
WOULD KNOW
THE TRUE
IDENTITY OF
THE PUBLIC
SECURITY
REFERENCE
ROOMS.

...YOU'RE
WELL-
IN-
FORMED.



IF IT'S NOT
MISTAKEN, ABOUT
THE CAPITAL'S
"PUBLIC SECURITY
REFERENCE
ROOMS"
ACTUALLY GOES
FOR TOP SECRET
SPECIAL
INVESTIGATIONS
TEAMST



JUDGING
FROM WHAT
I HEARD
EARLIER, I
ASSUME
THERE'S MORE
TO YOU THAN
MEETS THE
EYE...



TOMTAAE-
SEN, CONSID-
ERING THE
CIRCUMSTAN-
CES, I DON'T
SUPPOSE YOU
WOULD GIVE
US A REAL
INTRODUC-
TION?



I'M JUST A
BIT OF AN
ENTHUSIAST.
IT'S A FACT
I HAPPENED
ACROSS,
THAT'S
ALL...!

N-NO,
HA-HA-
HA-HA!



THE-
SENSEI.



O-OH
NO, I'M
NOT.

PHOTOG-
RAPHY
IS ONLY
A HOBBY.
I'M
JUST...

I NEVER
REALLY
BELIEVED
YOUR "I'M
JUST A
TRAVELING
PHOTOG-
RAPHER"
ACT.



OH,
YOU'RE
THE...

NO, NO,
I WAS
JUST
DOING
MY JOB.

THANK
YOU FOR
TAKING
SUCH GOOD
CARE
OF ME.

WE
MET
FIVE
YEARS
AGO.



I'M
NOT
SURE,
I...

...W-
WELL...



...IS
THAT
RIGHT?

AND
YOUR
CLINIC HAS
ANOTHER
NAME:
THE... IRIE
INSTITU-
TUTE?



I
ALREADY
KNOW THAT
EVERY YEAR,
THOSE
MASTER-
MINDS...

...REDIRECT
A LOT
OF THAT
MONEY INTO
THE IRIE
INSTITUTE.

...YOU
SEE, UNTIL
RECENTLY
MY
DIVISION...

...WAS
DOING A
PRIVATE INVESTI-
GATION ON
LARGE SCALE
FUNDS, AND THE
MASTERMINDS
CONTROLLING
WHERE THAT
MONEY WENT.



INCLUDING
ONE
LIEUTENANT
COLONEL
KYOSUKE
IRIE. CHECK
HIS NAME.

...AND
THE TOP
MEMBERS
OF THE IRIE
INSTITUTE
CAME FROM
THE JAPAN
SELF-
DEFENSE
FORCES.

...



...IRIE-
SENSEI.
TOMI-
TAKE-
SAN.

W-WHAT
I'M NOT
IN THE
SELF-
DEFENSE
FORCES!

IT'S IN
NAME
ONLY.

LIEUTENANT
COLONEL
I-IRIE-
SENSEI!
YOU'RE
FROM THE
SELF-
DEFENSE
FORCES!







...ARE COMING
TOGETHER...
AND TALKING
EVERYTHING
OVER.

GROWN-
UPS WHO
NEVER HAD
ANYTHING
TO DO
WITH EACH
OTHER
BEFORE...

AKASAKA,
OGISHI,
TOMITAKE,
IRE...



I'VE
NEVER
SEEN A
WORLD
LIKE THIS
BEFORE
...



...IS THIS A
MIRACLE...?





...DO YOU
THINK WE
CAN MAKE
A MIRACLE
BIG ENOUGH
TO BREAK
THROUGH THE
CURSE OF
1987?

AND...



**YES,
SIR, WE
CAN.**



*IF WE ALL
JOIN HANDS,
WE CAN MAKE
ANY MIRACLE
HAPPEN. I
KNOW IT.*



CHAPTER 22: KURAUO OOISHI



...THE
TRUE
JOB TO-
FLYE,
BROO-
SANCY
WILLIE.
SA...

WHA-
RYZAM
SYN-
DROME,
THE
GUEEN
CARDINAL...



...STARTED
TELLING
AKASAGA
AND GOSHAN
ALL THE
SECRETS
OF WAG-
RYZAM.

JOE
AND
TOM-
TAKE...



...COME
TOGETHER
TO TALK
EVERY-
THING
OVER.

GROWN-
UPS WHO
HAD
NOTHING
IN
COMMON...



I'VE
NEVER
SEEN A
WORLD
LIKE THIS
BEFORE...



GOSHAN,
EVERY-
THING
THEY SAY
IS FLAI-
SABLE.

I CAN
EASILY
IMAGINE
A FACTION
DEVELOP
SOME
THRILLER
PLOT.

RYU-
CHIN
MAY
INDEED
BE
RIGHT.

I
SEE...



...ON THE OTHER HAND, I FEEL LIKE I'VE JUST HEARD THE SUMMARY OF SOME NOVEL...

HHMM...



I'M IN A SPECIAL CLASS OF POLICE.

YOU BELIEVE ME, AKA-SAKA, SIR?

CASES THAT DEFY COMMON SENSE DON'T SURPRISE ME.



...I HOPE YOU'LL PARDON MY SAYING SO, BUT...

SO...

I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL LIKE THIS CASE IS TOO BIG.



DOOSHI-SAN.



...YOU HAD
BETTER
STAY OUT
OF THIS.



...WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN BY
THAT?

AKA-
SAKA-
SAN...



YOU'RE
RETIRED
THIS YEAR,
GOSEI-
SAN.



AKA-
SAKA...



AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO COLLECT YOUR PENSION.

YOUR LONG, DANGEROUS CAREER IS COMING TO AN END.



ONE FALSE MOVE COULD CHANGE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE AS A POLICE OFFICER.

BUT... THE ENEMY IN THIS CASE IS TOO BIG.

YOUR FUTURE WILL BE HEAVILY AFFECTED BY WHETHER OR NOT YOU GET THAT RETIREMENT MONEY.

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PAY OFF YOUR MORTGAGE, HAVE FOR YOUR OLD AGE... AND FINANCE THE SECOND PHASE OF YOUR LIFE.

MONEY IS IMPORTANT.



I SEE.



IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

SO IF I'M NOT READY TO LOSE EVERYTHING—

—MY JOB, MY PENSION, EVERYTHING—I NEED TO BACK OUT.



OOSHII

...



MM-FU-FU.
THAT'S ALL
RIGHT.

I APOLO-
GIZE FOR
BEING SO
BLUNT...



LOSING
EVERY-
THING AT
OOSHII'S
AGE...

ONLY
OOSHII, WHO'S
WALKED DOWN
THE PATH OF
HIS LIFE FOR
SO MANY
DECADES, CAN
UNDERSTAND
THE WEIGHT
OF THAT
LOSS.



...THEN I
COULD STAND
HERE AND
TELL YOU
STRAIGHT
UP THAT I'M
NOT AFRAID
OF A LITTLE
REPRIMAND

...IF I
HAD LIVED
A LITTLE
SMARTER
...



...I ALWAYS
WAS PRETTY
LAX ABOUT
PAYING OFF
MY LOANS.

PEN-
SION,
HUH...?

ALL
BECAUSE
I WANTED
SOME OF MY
SALARY TO
PAY FOR
GAMBLING
AND
BOOZE.



IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING A DETECTIVE. NONE OF THAT MATTERS ANYMORE.

NO...

I MEAN... I'M A DETECTIVE.



...I WOULD DO WHATEVER IT TOOK TO FIND O'BRIEN'S KILLER.

I SWORE IN FRONT OF O'BRIEN'S GRAVE...

...THAT EVEN IF I WAS THROWN OUT OF THE FORCE...



THAT I WOULD BE AFRAID TO SEE MY PENSION GOING UP IN SMOKE?

AND YOU THINK I... WOULD BE SCARED OF A LITTLE DISCIPLINARY DISCHARGE?



...YOU'RE
DAMN
RIGHT
I'M
SCARED!

I'M
ABOUT
TO GET
TENS OF
MILLIONS
OF DOLLARS!
I HAVE A
WHOLE
FUTURE
PLANNED
AROUND
THIS
MONEY!
AND I
COULD
LOSE IT
ALL!



WHY
AM
I SO
SCARED
ABOUT
LOSING
ALL OF
THIS?

I WAS
GOING TO
LIVE IT UP
IN
BORNEO
AND
TAKE UP
SOCIAL
DANCEST

I WAS
GOING TO
USE THAT
MONEY TO
PAY OFF MY
LOANS AND
GIVE MY
WIFE AND
CHILDREN
THE LIFE
I'D ALWAYS
WANTED

NOW I'M
FINALLY
ABOUT
TO GET
THIS
GUMMY
LITTLE
HEAD-
OUT!



THAT'S
WHAT I
WANT
FOR
MYSELF
AND MY
WIFE AND
CHILDREN
I JUST
NEED TO
GET MY
HEAD
OUT

I KEPT MY
HEAD OUT
AND KEPT
DOING MY
JOB EVEN
THOUGH
IT WASN'T
EASY
BUT THE
END

ALL
THIS
FOR
GUMMY
LITTLE
HEAD-
OUT!



IS THAT
ALL MY
DETECTIVE
SPIRIT
AMOUNTS
TO?

AND
YOU
EXPECT
ME TO
PROTECT
MYSELF
SO I CAN
KEEP MY
PEN-
LIGHT?



I COULD
EXPLORE
THE
TRUTH
BEHIND
THE
SERIES
OF MYST-
ERIOUS
DEATHS IN
HONG-
KONG!

THE
DOOR TO
TRUTH
THAT I'VE
WANTED SO
BADLY I
USE IT IN MY
DREAMS—
AND IT'S
RIGHT
HERE IN
FRONT OF ME!

DAM-
MIT...

DAM-
MIT...!





DO-SHI-SAN.



.....



... YES

Y...



I SEEM TO REMEMBER...
YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH
THE CONSTRUCTION DIRECTOR
WHO WAS KILLED?



...AND
THAT
TIME
COMES...

...SO
WHEN
EVERY-
THING
IS
OVER...



IF THE PLOT
SURROUNDING
RIKA-CHAN IS
EXPOSED, THEN
THE DAY WILL
COME WHEN I
AM FORCED
TO TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY.

IT MAY
BE IN
NAME ONLY,
BUT I AM
TECHNICALLY
THE HEAD OF
THE IRI
INSTITUTE.



IT
WOULD BE
WASTED ON
THE MISERABLE
MAN WHO RUNS
AND HIDES, ALL
TO PROTECT
A MEASLY
PENSION.

...BUT
PLEASE,
SAVE IT FOR
THE KURAUDDO
OOISHI THAT
HAD THE
COURAGE
TO HELP
YOU.



OOISHI-
SAN...



...CAN
I HAVE
SOME
TIME TO
THINK?



BUT...
I DON'T
HAVE THE
COURAGE.

PART OF
ME WANTS
TO EXPOSE
THE TRUTH
AND TAKE
DOWN THE
BAD GUY.

OOISHI...





A LITTLE
TIME...

...FOR THE
SPINELESS
COWARD.



...I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
HIM SO
WEAK.



I'VE SEEN
GODS IN
SO MANY
WORLDS
BEFORE
NOW.

BUT...



THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN
SAY...

...HEL...

NOT EVEN
ANY TRITE
WORDS OF
COMFORT OR
ENCOURAGE-
MENT...



AND HE
CAN'T
REACH OUT
AND GRAB
IT. IT'S
KILLING
HIM.

THE TRUTH
HE'S BEEN
LONGING
FOR IS
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
HIM.



I
ALLOW
IT.



THERE'S
NOTHING...

...ANY
OF US
CAN—



HE-
NYU!



YOU
NEED
TIME TO
MAKE
YOUR
DECISION.

I WILL
LET YOU
HAVE IT.





I KNOW
WELL THE
WEIGHT
OF THOSE
CHERISHED
DAYS.

I HAVE
WATCHED
YOU IN
HINAMIZAWA
THROUGH
ALL OF IT.



TO
THIS
VERY
DAY...



OO-
ISHI.



THAT'S
HOW YOU'VE
LIVED YOUR
LIFE.

...YOU HAVE
BEEN TRUE
TO YOUR-
SELF AND
ALSO HARD
ON YOUR-
SELF.



FOR A
THOU-
SAND
YEARS...





...AS LONG
AS YOU'VE
THOUGHT
LONG AND
HARD ABOUT
THAT
DECISION...

...I WILL
PRAISE
YOU FOR
IT.



THAT IS
EXACTLY WHY
WHEN YOU
NEED TO MAKE
A DECISION,
YOUR OPTIONS
ARE NOT
LIGHT
EITHER.

THE
WEIGHT
OF YOUR
LIFE IS NOT
INSIGNIFI-
CANT.

THAT
IS
SOME-
THING
TO BE
TRULY
PROUD
OF.

AFTER
LIVING A
LIFE OF SUCH
GRAVITY AS
YOU HAVE
AND THEN
HAVING TO MAKE
A DECISION OF
THIS MAGNI-
TITUDE—

CARELESS
CHOICES AND
RECKLESS-
NESS ARE
NOT THINGS
TO BE
PROUD OF.

...OR
WHETHER
YOU MAKE
THE BRAVE,
HEROIC
CHOICE...

WHETHER
YOU MAKE
THE CALM,
LEVEL-
HEADED
CHOICE...

**THANK YOU...
FOR GIVING
THIS COWARD
SOME TIME.**





...THINKING
THE SONO-
TAKU WERE
PULLING THE
STRINGS.

...THOSE
BOYS
WHO KILLED
OSUGAKI AND
CUT HER INTO
PIECES. ALL
THIS TIME,
I'VE BEEN
FOLLOWING
THE CASE...



IS THAT
CORRECT
...?



...IRE-
SENSEL.
JUST TELL
ME ONE
THING.



NO.
THAT IS INCOR-
RECT.

EVERY
ASPECT
OF THE
MYSTERIOUS
DEATHS IS
SOMETHING
THE IRIE
INSTITUTE
CAN
EXPLAIN.



...THE
INSTITUTE
TOLD PEOPLE
THEY COULD
PROTECT
THEM FROM
THE MONSTERS
BUT SOMEBODY
TO GO WITH THE
SCHOOLBAG.

...THE THREE
FOUNDED, OR
ANY OF THE
VILLAGERS
ON.



THE TRUTH
IS, THEY ARE
ACTUALLY
AFRAID OF
THE MONSTERS
THAT HAPPEN
EVERY YEAR,
SO

THE
SCHOOLBAG
ONLY ACT
LIKE THEY ARE
THE MASTER-
MINDS TO
INCREASE
THEIR
FAMILY'S
REPUTATION.









GOISHI
HAS
HATED THE
SONOZAKI
FAMILY FOR
A VERY
LONG
TIME.



GOISHI...
SEEMS
SO
HAPPY...

WHY
...?



IT'S
A HARD
THING TO
SPEND SO
MUCH TIME
HATING.

AND...



IT'S
A WON-
DERFUL
FEELING,
SIR.

...HAVING
NO ONE
TO HATE
ANYMORE
IS SUCH
A HAPPY
THING.





NOW,
THEN...



DOGGY
LEFT. HE
SAID HE
WANTED
TO COOL
HIS HEAD.



YES... I'LL
CHANGE
HOTELS AND
MAKE SURE
NOT TO TELL
ANYONE AT
THE LAB
INSTITUTE.



IF SHE DOES
TURN OUT TO
BE WHAT WE
SUSPECT,
THEN YOU
WILL BE
THE FIRST
ONE IN
DANGER.

CONFES-
SING. NOW
YOU HAVE
TOOK A
TURNS
THAT'S A
VERY
GOOD
JOB.



...BUT
I'M MOST
WORRIED
ABOUT
DOKU-
CHANG
SAPITEK



HMM?
WHAT DO
YOU THINK
I SHOULD
DO...?

WHAT
DO I
DO...?



SHE
KNOWS
WHERE YOU
LIVE. IT
WOULDN'T
BE WISE
TO STAY
THERE.

YOU
WOULD
BE TOO
DEFENSE-
LESS...



WHY
NOT THE
BASEMENT
AT THE
SONOZAKI
ESTATE,
SIR?

ARMY
WORKS
—?



IF I
WENT
THERE

THE
SONOZAKI
BASEMENT
IS LIKE A
FULLY
STOCKED,
SECRET
BOMB
BASTION.



THE
COTTON
DRIFTING
IS
THREE
DAYS
AWAY.

AT THE
VERY
LEAST,
I THINK
YOU
SHOULD
SEEK
REFUGE
IN A
SAFE
PLACE
UNTIL
THE
FESTIVAL.

IF WE
WERE
TO
CONSIDER
THIS
SITUATION
TO
SCHOOL,
YOU
WOULD
BE AN
EXPOSED
KING.



YES,
THAT
MIGHT
WORK.

...I THINK
I'LL ASK
MOM IF
SAYOKO AND
I CAN HIDE
OUT AT HER
HOUSE,
SIR.

I'LL
PRETEND
TO
BE
SICK
SO
I
CAN
SKIP
SCHOOL,
TOO,
SIR.



IT'S ALL
WELL AND
GOOD FOR
YOU TO
GO INTO
HIDING...

...BUT
IF THE
LIGHTS AT
YOUR HOUSE
DON'T COME
ON AT NIGHT,
THEY'LL KNOW
THAT NO ONE
IS THERE,
SIR.



BUT RIKU,
THERE'S
JUST ONE
PROBLEM...



SO
WE NEED
SOMEONE TO
BE AT THE
HOUSE TO
TURN THE
LIGHTS ON
AND OFF.

RIGHT



I HAVE
AN IDEA,
SIR.



BUT...
IS THERE
ANYONE WE
COULD ASK
TO DO THAT?



?









HE WON'T
COME INTO
PLAY UNTIL
AFTER HE
HAS
TAKEN
WHERE HE
WENT HERE.



SEE IS
GOING
TO GO
ON WITH
LIFE AS
USUAL.

TOMORROW
HE GOES TO
CONTACT HIS
SUPERORDINATES
AT TOKYO AND
HAVE THEM
INVESTIGATE
TAKING.



THE
BATTLE
PREPARATIONS
ARE
COMPLETE.

AND
THAT'S
GOOD
ENOUGH.



GOISHI
WON'T BE
PLAYING
AN ACTIVE
PART, BUT
HE IS ON
OUR SIDE.

AND...





I...I'LL
MAKE HER
UNDER-
STAND,
SIR...

WILL YOUR
ROOMMATE
BE OKAY
WITH THIS?



NO...I THINK
HAVING YOU
WITH ME WILL
MAKE WHAT
I SAY MORE
BELIEVABLE,
SIR.

DO YOU
THINK I
SHOULD
WAIT
OUT-
SIDE?



I HAVE
TO
EXPLAIN
EVERY-
THING TO
HER...

AS LONG
AS SHE'S
IN THIS
HOUSE,
SHE'LL
HAVE TO BE
DROPPED
INTO THIS
WHOLE
MESS.











**SATOKO
BELIEVED
ME...**



YEAH...



OF
COURSE
SHE
BELIEVES
YOU.

**SATOKO
IS YOUR
BEST
FRIEND,
SIR.**



**THE
NIGHT OF
JUNE 18TH
WENT
ON.**

**AND WE
GAIN MORE
AND MORE
DEPENDABLE
ALLIES FOR
THE FIGHT
THAT WILL BE
OUR FINAL
CHALLENGE.**



**THIS
TIME I
WON'T
LET HER
KILL
HIM.**

**AND THIS
TIME I
TOD WILL
SURVIVE.**



**THE
FINAL KEY,
TOMUTAKE,
WILL BE
MURDERED
IN THREE
DAYS.**



**DESTINY
WILL MOVE
IN THE
NEXT THREE
DAYS...!**

CHAPTER 23: OPERATION FORTY-EIGHT HOURS







I WAS SURPRISED TOO. THEY
SUDDENLY SHOWED UP
LAST NIGHT
ASKING ME
TO HIDE THEM.



...AND THEY'RE
GOING TO
DO IT ON
THE NIGHT
OF THE
COTTON
DRIFTING?

SO THIS
TOKYO
ORGANIZATION
REALLY IS
TRYING TO
KILL YOU...



I'M VERY
SORRY FOR
GETTING
YOU ALL
MIXED UP
IN THIS.
SIRS...



RIKA...

NORMALLY
KIDS LIKE
US WOULD
NEVER STAND
A CHANCE
AGAINST A
GROUP LIKE
THIS, SIRS.

THE PLOT
I'M INVOLVED
IN IS SO BIG
THAT EVEN
POLICEMEN
ARE
SCARED TO
FACE
IT.





197-1
PAGES
COUNT



LIKE WE
FINALLY
FOUND
SOMEBODY
WE CAN GO
ALL OUT
AGAINST!

SURE, I
WAS IN
SHOCK
FOR A
SECOND—
THIS
THING IS
HUGE!

BUT COME
ON, GUYS!
I KNOW
YOU'RE ALL
THINKING,
"NOW
THIS IS
GETTING
INTEREST-
ING!"



YOU'VE
GOTTA
HAVE
SOMETHING
YOU'VE
BEEN
SAVING!

A
SECRET
TRAP—
ONE THEY
WON'T WALK
AWAY FROM
LAUGHING!

SA-
TOKO!

THIS IS
YOUR
TIME TO
SHINE!



YOU
KNOW ME
ALL TOO
WELL.

...OH-WO-
HO...





KEIICHI,
REMA...



AND THE
LADY WHO
BURNS
WHITE-HOT,
REMA
EYEGUY?

THIS WILL
BE OUR
GREATEST
CHANCE
TO SHOW
THE WORLD
WHAT OUR
CLUB IS
MADE OF!!

THE
MAN
WHO
BURNS
RED-
HOT?
KEIICHI
MAE-
BARA!!



...BUT
HERE'S
WHAT THIS
OLD MAN
WAS
THINKING
...

I DIDN'T
WANT TO
SPEAK
OUT OF
TURN...

HEH
HEH
HEH...



RIGHT,
MIGHTY?

AND
THE
STRONG-
EST
CLUB IN
THE WORLD
IS LED BY
THE MOST
POWER-
FUL
LEADER!!

**GUYS!
WE'LL MAKE
THEM PAY
THROUGH
THE NOSE
FOR THAT!!**

**THEY'VE
DECIDED
THEY'RE
TOP IN
HINAMIZAWA
WITHOUT
EVEN GIVING
A NOD TO
OUR CLUB!!**

**THIS IS
GOING TO
BE THE
MOST FUN
I'VE EVER
HAD!!**





YOU
SHOW
PROMISE
KEIKO!

HAIYU!



MON...
BAREY...
ONE...



...YOU
KNEW
JUST WHO
TO LIGHT
THE SPARK
UNDER
FIRST!

IN THIS
CLUB OF
HOOD-
LUMS...

I KNOW
YOU VERY
WELL,
KEIKO-
GIR!



...THANK
YOU...FOR
BELIEVING
ME.

EVERY-
ONE...



YEA

YEAH!!



WE WILL
FIND A
WAY TO
BEAT
TAKANO.

RIKA,
WE'RE
GOING TO
DO IT,
SIR.



WE'RE
YOUR
FRIENDS. OF
COURSE WE
BELIEVE
YOU.



SO
LET'S
GO
OVER
THIS
AGAIN.



WE'LL
JUST
TAKE
THAT
CONSPIRACY
AND
TURN IT
INTO
LITTLE
PIECES!

AND
THAT'S
SETTLED.
IT'S
TIME TO
STUDY-
HARD!



AKASAKA
IS VERY
STRONG,
SIR!

I FEEL
MUCH MORE
SECURE
WITH ASA-
SAKA ON
OUR SIDE,
SIR.



THAT "ASA-
SAKA" WON'T
BE STAYING AT
YOUR HOUSE
WHILE YOU'RE
GONE, SO NO
ONE WILL KNOW
YOU'RE NOT
THERE.

WE
OWE
HIM
ONE!

THE-
CLASS AND
HATCHO
WILL SAY
THEY'RE
SICK AND
STAY
OUT OF
SCHOOL.



...IS
TOMITAKE-
SAN WITH
THE VITAL
TASK OF
CATCHING THE
ENEMY BY
THE TAIL.

MORE
IMPOR-
TANT...

BUT
AKASAKA'S
MAIN ROLE
WILL BE TO
PROTECT YOU
IN CASE OF
AN EMER-
GENCE



WHEN
THAT
HAPPENS,
VICTORY
IS OURS.

HE'S OUR
OFFENSIVE
PLAYER.

IF HE CAN
GET PROOF OF
TAKANO-SAN'S
PLOT, THEN HE
CAN SEND FOR A
WATCHDOG TEAM
TO SUPPRESS
OUR TOKYO
ENEMIES.



IS THERE
ANYTHING
WE CAN DO
OFFENSE-
WISE?



SO IT ALL
DEPENDS ON
TOMTAKU-
SAN'S INVESTI-
GATION...



...AND
PUT A
STOP TO
THESE
WAGGLE
CON-
SPIRACY

SOME-
THING
THAT'D
HELP WITH
TOMTAKU-
SAN'S INVESTI-
GATION...

... THAT
WOULD LAND
A DIRECT
HIT ON THE
ENEMY...



I THINK
WE CAN
USE THAT
AS OUR TRUMP
CARD.

YOU'RE
WITH US,
SHINA-CHAN,
AND YOU'RE
THE KEY TO
THEIR WHOLE
PLAN.



I'M
SURE
WE
CAN

CAN WE
REALLY
DO ANY-
THING?



THEIR GOAL
IS TO KILL
YOU AND
INITIATE THAT
EMERGENCY
MANUAL.

THEY'LL
WIP OUT THE
ENTIRE VILLAGE
AND USE THAT
AS LEVERAGE IN
THE FRACTURED
DISPUTES
WITHIN THEIR
ORGANIZATION



はっ...
うん...



DOES
THIS GROUP
HAVE SOME
KIND OF
PEAK
POINT...?



HEH
HEH
HEH...
HEH...

WHAT'S
UP,
MONT?



...YES...
THAT'S
RIGHT,
SIR...

WELL...



THIS
EMERGENCY
MANUAL
THING... IF YOU
DR. EVERYONE
IN THE VILLAGE
WILL GO MAD
WITHIN
FORTY-EIGHT
HOURS
SO THEY ACTIVATE
THE
MANUAL TO STOP
THE OUT-
BREAK BEFORE
THAT, RIGHT?

SIKA-
DAMN, LET ME
GET THIS
STRAIGHT.



TO BE
HONEST,
IT
DOESN'T
MAKE
MUCH
SENSE
TO ME,
SIR.

...AND
THAT'S WHAT
THEY'RE
BASING
THEIR FORTY-
EIGHT-HOUR
THEORY ON, I THINK.

...ACCORD-
ING TO
THEORY, THEY'VE
ENCOUNTERED
SIMILAR
CASES IN
OTHER
COUNTRIES.

...SO HOW
DO THEY KNOW
THAT THE
VILLAGERS WILL
GO MAD WITHIN
FORTY-EIGHT
HOURS?

YOU'VE
NEVER DIED
BEFORE...





...THE
ENEMY'S
OFFENSIVE
STRATEGY
DEPENDS
ENTIRELY
ON THAT
EMERGENCY
MANUAL..

LISTEN.
JUST LIKE
WE HAVE TO
DEPEND ON
TOMITAKE-SAN
FOR OUR
OFFENSE...



SO
ALL WE
HAVE TO
DO IS TEAR
APART THE
WHOLE
REASON
FOR THAT
MANUAL.

MAKE IT SO
THERE'S NO
JUSTIFICATION
FOR IT.



THEY
MADE THE
MANUAL
TO
PREVENT
THAT.

...ALL TWO
THOUSAND
VILLAGERS
WILL GO
CRAY WITHIN
FORTY-EIGHT
HOURS.

THE
MANUAL
IS BASED
WHOLLY ON
ONE ASSUMPTION
OF THE GREEN
CARDER—
THAT'S YOU—
YES...

SO
THERE'S
NO JUSTI-
FICATION
FOR THE
EMERGENCY
MANUAL...?



SO...
YOU WANT
TO MAKE
IT FALL
APART...

BUT
HOW?



SO IF THAT
THEORY FALLS
APART, THEN
THEY WON'T
BE ABLE TO
ACTIVATE THE
MANUAL...



BUT
IT'S ONLY
A THEORY
THAT THE
OUTBREAK
WILL HAPPEN
WITHIN TWO
DAYS...



BASH-
CALLY...



WELL....



WE'LL
NEED HELP
FROM OUR
POLICE
OFFICER
FRIEND
OCHAI
FOR THIS
ONE.

WE'LL
HAVE THE
POLICE
RELEASE A
REPORT...

WH-
WHAT
DO YOU
MEANT?

WHAT
...?



AND WE
MAKE SURE
TAKANO
GETS
THE FALSE
INFORMA-
TION.

BUT THAT
SHE'S BEEN
DEAD FOR
MORE THAN
FORTY-EIGHT
HOURS.

...THAT
THEY'VE
FOUND
SHE-
CHAN'S
BODY.



AND THEN
THEY'LL
START TO
DOUBT THE
PURPOSE OF
THE EMER-
GENCY
MANUAL.

THEY'LL
THINK MAYBE
THIS FORTY-
EIGHT-HOUR
MAGG-
OUTBREAK
THING WAS
WRONG.

THEN IT
WILL LOOK LIKE
RENGERAMA
IS STILL A
PEACEFUL
VILLAGE. THERE'S
IT MAYBE BEEN
MORE THAN
FORTY-EIGHT
HOURS
SINCE YOUR
DEATH



...YOU JUST
HAVE TO BE
DEAD FOR
FORTY-EIGHT
HOURS!!



HE'LL
CALL IN THE
WATCHDOGS,
AND TAKANO'S
FACTION
WILL BE
CRUSHED.

THEN
THEIR
CONSPIRACY
WILL HAVE
FAILED.

AND WHILE
THEY'RE STILL
SHAKEN UP,
TOMIYAMA-SAN
CAN swoop in
AND HAVE THE
WHOLE GROUP
BURNED WHERE
WE WANT
THEM!

THE BIG
WIGS'LL
PUT
A STOP
TO THE
MANUAL
FOR SURE!

NO ONE
WILL WANT
TO SANCTION
A PLAN THAT
WILL WIPE OUT
A WHOLE
VILLAGE.

THEN
IT'LL
BE ALL
OVER
FOR THEM!



IN
OTHER
WORDS
...

EARLY
IN THE
MORNING
THE DAY
AFTER
TOMORROW...

... WILL BE
EARLY IN THE
MORNING THE
DAY AFTER
TOMORROW.
THEY'LL SAY
THAT'S WHEN
THEY FOUND
THE BODY.
IT'LL BE
RESPECT.

THE LAST
TIME
ANYONE
SAW YOU
IN PUBLIC
WAS AT
SCHOOL
YESTER-
DAY.

FORTY-
EIGHT
HOURS
FROM
THEN...



ON THE
MORNING OF
THE COTTON
DRIFTING,
WE'LL HAVE
GOSHI-SAN
LEAK THE
FALSE
INFORMA-
TION.

...THE
MORNING
OF THE
COTTON
DRIFTING.



I NEVER
THOUGHT
OF THAT...

I SEE...
THAT
COULD
WORK...

GO
COLLECT

!!

OH!!!!

THIS
WILL
BE A
DELIGHT-
FUL
TRIP
INDEED!

HO!
HO!!

ALL
RIGHT! I
CAN SEE
IT NOW!
I SEE
JUST
HOW
WE'RE
GONNA
WIN
THIS!!



ONWARD TO
VICTORY!!

WE'LL
CALL IT
OPERATION
FORTY-
EIGHT
HOURS!

YEAH! AH!

HOW DO
THEY COME
UP WITH
THESE
THINGS...?

MY
FRIENDS...



...IT
MIGHT
WORK

IF WE DO
THIS...



BUT...



...THEN
THIS TIME,
WE CAN
BEAT
DESTINY!

...IF
WE ALL
WORK
TOGETH-
ER...



NO...



WE WILL
BEAT
DESTINY!



YOU HAVE
NOTHING TO WORRY
ABOUT
THERE,
GIRL.



NOW WE
JUST
NEED TO
KNOW IF
OOSHII-
SAN WILL
HELP US
OR NOT.



HEE...



THE
NEXT
DAY

JUNE 13,
MORNING



THANKS
FOR
SHOPPING
WITH US.

ONE DAY
BEFORE
THE
COTTON
DRIFTING

THANK
YOU...

OPERATION
FORTY-
EIGHT
HOURS...





...AND
THEY
HAD A
CRAZY
FAVOR
TO ASK
ME.



I WENT
TO THE
SOMOZAKI
ESTATE
YESTERDAY
TO CHECK
ON RISA-
CAGAN...



WILL YOU
HELP US,
CONDO-
SANT?



AND
THAT'S
THE PLAN
WE CAME
UP WITH.



...THEN
THERE WILL
BE MORE
THAN MY
PENSION AT
STAKE.

BUT IF I
SPREAD FALSE
INFORMATION
ABOUT A DEAD
GIRL, AND IT
SETS OUT
THAT IT WAS
ME...



IT IS A
GOOD
PLAN...



SHANE: FOMBY: SHANE

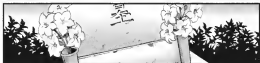






I KNOW
YOU'D SLUG
ME AGAIN
FOR THAT.

YOU'D CALL
ME A DAMN
FOOL....



ALL I'LL
GET IS THE
KNOWLEDGE
OF THE
TRUTH.

AT BEST,
IT'LL CORRECT
ALL OF
MY IDIOTIC
ASSUMPTIONS.



AND
THERE'S
NOT MUCH
HANDOUT
FOR THE
RISK.

OVERSEAS...
I'M ABOUT
TO CROSS A
DANGEROUS
BRIDGE.



BUT...







SHION
SONO-
ZAKI...

AKAME
SONO-
ZAKI...



MEM-
BERS
OF THE
SONO-
TAKI
FAMILY?

WHAT
ARE THEY
DOING
HERE...?



DOSSI-
GUT-SAMA,
I'M GOING
TO ARRANGE
THE
FLOWERS.
PARDON
ME.

TEH.



YOU
NAUGHTY
KID!

MR. HY
AREN'T YOU
SUPPOSED
TO BE ON
DUTY?



BEAUTI-
FUL,
AREN'T
THEY?

THEY'RE
FROM OUR
GARDEN.



BLUE
HYDRAN-
GEAS...

DON'T
TELL ME
YOU'RE THE
ONE...

...WHO'VE
BEEN
LEAVING
THESE
HYDRANGEAS
FOR OVA-
SAN EVERY
YEAR?

WHY
WOULD
THE SONO-
SAKIS VISIT
OSAMASA'S
GRAVE...?

OSAMASA



SO I
WANT
SURE TO
GET
FLOWERS
THAT WENT
WITH
THEM



...THE
HYDRAN-
GEARS HAVE
ALWAYS
BEEN HERE
ALREADY
WHEN I
VISITED.

BLUE AND
WHITE.
WHAT A
LOVELY
COLOR
COMBINA-
TION.



YOUR
WHITE
BELLFLOW-
ERS AND
OUR BLUE
HYDRAN-
GEARS.

...BRING
FLOWERS TO
THE GRAVE OF
THE PROJECT
DIRECTOR...?

WHY
WOULD TWO
MEMBERS OF
THE SONOZAKI
FAMILY, WHO
WERE SO
OPPOSED TO
THE DAN
PROJECT...

BUT
WOULD
YOU BE SO
KIND AS
TO TELL
ME ONE
THING?





...THE DAM
PROJECT
IS OVER.



WELL...

TO
LOOPY



THE ONGA-
FUCHI DEFENSE
ALLIANCE—
LED BY THE
SCHOKARU—
AND THE DAM
CONSTRUCTION
SUPPORTERS
WERE SO
VIOLENTLY IN
CONFLICT—

HA-HA...
I JUST DON'T
GET IT.



THEY CALL
THE END OF
A "DASHY" GAME
"NO SIDE." DON'T
THEY'VE ASKED
THE "NO SIDE"
STRUGGLE
AGAINST ONE
ANOTHER IS
OVER?

THE
WAR IS
OVER.

IT'S
LIKE
THAT.



I HAVE
A HARDER
TIME UNDER-
STANDING
YOU.



IN
MY MIND,
THE DAM
WAR IS
OVER.

BUT IS IT
STILL GOING
ON IN YOUR
VIEW?



IF I
NEVER
HAVE TO GO
THROUGH
THOSE
SCOTTS AGAIN,
IT WILL BE
TOO SOON.



OF
COURSE
NOT.

IT'S
OVER.



THEN
THERE'S
NOTHING
WRONG WITH
SOMEONE'S
VISITING A
GRAVE, IS
THERE?



HEH...



THAT
WRAPPING...
YOU LEAVE A
PACKAGE LIKE
THAT EVERY
YEAR. WHAT'S
INSIDE IT?



OH-SABA'S
SPECIAL
CHAGI.



THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE...



BUT SHE
SAID THAT
MEN WHO
COOK PROBABLY
DON'T
LIKE SWEETS,
SO SHE
DIDN'T USE
AS MUCH
SUGAR.



EH...?



YOU
JUST SAID
THAT YOU'VE
SEEN THEM
EVERY
YEAR, DIDN'T
YOU?

SEE
MAKES
THEM AND
GIVES THEM TO
THE RE-
CEIVED

...FOR THE
ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DAM
DIRECTOR'S
DEATH—
EVERY
YEAR?

YOU'RE
SAYING
THE OLD
LADY
CHAGI
MAKES
CHAGI...





.....



...THESE
ARE THE
TIMES WE
LIVE IN.

IF THINGS
DON'T GO
WELL, THE
ERA NAME
MAY CHANGE
WITHIN A FEW
YEARS.

IT'S
NEARLY
THE
SIXTIETH
YEAR
OF THE
SHOGA
ERA.



THOSE LEFT
BEHIND ARE
RESPONSIBLE
FOR CLEANING
UP THE OLD
ERA AND
BUILDING UP
THE NEW.



THE
GOVERN-
MENT WOULD
AT FIRST,
AND SO WERE
WE.

SO WE
REPEAT.

AND
THEN IT'S
DONE.

ALL THIS
BUSINESS
ABOUT
HOW SONG-
TAKES...

...SHOULDN'T
BE LEAVING
FLOWERS IN
FRONT OF
THE DAM
DIRECTOR'S
GRAVE.



...YOU ARE
ALIVE.

...I FIND
THAT
VERY
SAD.

SO I
CAN NEVER
MAKE
AMENDS
WITH THIS
MAN.

BUT
UNFORTU-
NATELY,
HE IS
DEAD.

...IF
HE WERE
ALIVE TODAY,
I WOULD LIKE
TO GO OUT
FOR DRINKS
WITH HIM
AND LET
BYGONES BE
BYGONES.

THERE
WAS AN UNFOR-
TUNATE
INCIDENT,
AND THIS
MAN LOST
HIS LIFE.

...THAT'S
WHAT
HAPPENS
WHEN
SOMEBODY
DIES...

SO MAYBE
ONE DAY
YOU AND
I WILL BE
FRIENDS.

BUT...



AND YOU
ALL ARE
ALIVE
TOO.

THAT'S
RIGHT.
I AM
ALIVE.



AH, THE
CLOUDS
ARE
BREAKING.





TIMES
CHANGE...

WYAMIZAMA
IS ENTERING
A NEW ERA
TOO.

INDEED...
FOR
EXAMPLE,
WHEN DID
I START
GETTING
LECTURES...
FROM
THE AKANE
SONOZAKI,
DEMON
PRINCESS
OF
SHISHIBONE?



OH, DEAR.
YOU STILL
REMEMBER
THAT NAME?

I WISH
YOU
WOULD
FORGET
IT.

FAIR
ENOUGH.

NN
FU
FU.





THE
DAM WAR
IS OVER,
AFTER ALL









**TIMES
CHANGE.**



**AN OLD
MAN LIKE
ME WOULD
NEVER HAVE
COME UP
WITH SUCH
A DARING
PLAN.**



**THE
NEXT
ERA...**



...WILL BE
THEIRS...



I'D
BETTER
GET GOING
MYSELF.

OYAS-
SAN.

HEH...







**...WISH
ME
LUCK.**



CHAPTER 24:
EVE OF THE FINAL BATTLE





You will administer
HITS
to First
Lieutenant
Tomitake...

...and he
will meet
with his
tragic
accident.



...and that
will all
eventually
lead to the
activation of
Emergency
Manual 34.

The board
at Tokyo
will turn a
suspicious
eye on
the fire
institute...



?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



YOU CAN
LEAVE IT
ALL TO
US..

EVERY-
THING IS
IN PLACE
FOR
THAT AS
WELL..



...WHAT IF
SOMETHING
GOES
WRONG?

...
UM
...



WHAT
IF FIRST
LIEUTENANT
TOMITAKE
ACCEPTS
THE BRIBE?



I think
that if we
win him to
our side,
he could be
very useful
to us.

He's the
outlier
for the
board.

BRING
THE FIRST
LIEUTENANT
WAS NOT
PART OF
THE PLAN.

.....



...RIGHT...



It would
be best to
stick with
the plan
and make
sure he
dies.

Even if
he were
to join
our side,
the risk
outweighs
the
benefit.





...WHY DO
I WANT TO
SEE HIM SO
BADLY?

BUT
NOW THAT
WE'RE
ABOUT TO
PUT THE
PLAN INTO
EFFECT...

I USED TO
THINK HE
WAS SO
ANNOYING,
FOLLOWING
ME AROUND
EVERY-
WHERE.

IT'S
WEIRD
...

I WAS
JUST
TALKING
ABOUT
KILLING
HIM...

...AND I
REALIZED
SOME-
THING.

HE'S ALL
I'VE BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT
FOR THE
LAST FEW
DAYS...





WELL, HE
HAS ONE
THING —
THAT
BULGE
IN HIS
STOMACH.

BUT
NOTH-
ING
GOOD.

HE HAS
NOTHING.
NOTHING
ABSOL-
UTELY
NOTHING.



HE HAS
NO SENSE
OF HUMOR
AND NO
SENSE OF
FASHION.

HE
DOESN'T
HAVE AN
OUNCE
OF MAS-
CULINE
CHARM.



...THE NEXT
THING I
KNOW,
I'M DOING
EVERYTHING
HIS WAY.

STILL...
...WHEN HE
DRAGS ME
AROUND WITH
A CAMERA IN
ONE HAND...



AND NO
MATTER WHAT
KIND OF A BAD
MOOD I WAS IN
BEFORE...

...I FIND
MYSELF
SMILING.



...I WANT
HIM TO
FORGIVE
ME.

SOME-
WHERE IN
MY HEART...
I WANT HIM
TO FORGIVE
ME.



AND...



I WANT
HIM TO
DRAG ME
AROUND
AGAIN.

I WANT HIM
TO GIVE ME
ANOTHER ONE
OF THOSE
ENTHUSIASTIC
LECTURES ON
PHOTOGRAPHY
THAT I NEVER
ASKED FOR.



I
THOUGHT...
MAYBE...
HE WOULD
BE WAITING
FOR ME
HERE.

JIROU-
SAN AND
I WOULD
MEET
HERE
ALL THE
TIME.



BEHIND
THE
SHRINE...

PROB-
ABLY THE
PLACE WITH
THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL
SCENERY
IN THE
VILLAGE.



JIROU-
SAN
ISN'T
HERE...



**BUT OF
COURSE
HE'S
NOT.**

**THAT
WOULD BE
MUCH TOO
CONVE-
NIENT.**



**I'M ABOUT
TO CREATE A
TERRIBLE
TRAGEDY THAT
CAN'T BE
UNDONE.**



**THAT'S
WHY I SO
DESPER-
ATELY
WANT
TO FIND
HIM...**



**...I
WANT
SOME-
ONE TO
FORGIVE
SOME-
THING...**

**AND NOW
THAT
THERE'S
NO
TURNING
BACK...**



**I CAN'T
POSSIBLY
EXPECT HIM
TO FORGIVE
ME.**



BUT I
HAVE NO
CHOICE.

NO ONE
WILL
FORGIVE
ME NOW.



THIS
IS ALL
TO MAKE
GRANDPA
INTO A
GOD.



...HE WOULD
CARRY OUT HIS
PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILI-
TIES AND
ARREST ME.

IF HE
KNEW
WHAT I'M
ABOUT
TO DO...



GRANDPA'S
RESEARCH
WILL BE
ETERNALLY
ETCHED
INTO THIS
WORLD BY
MY HAND.

THAT WAS
GRANDPA'S
WISH...!



サカサ
グランド

WOULD
HAVING HIS
RESEARCH
ACKNOWLEDGED
LIKE
THIS....

...REALLY
MAKE
GRANDPA
HAPPY?



WAS

IT

REALLY?

THAT WILL
BE PROOF
THAT THEY
ACKNOWLEDGE
HIS
WORK.



ONCE THE
EVIDENCE IS
EXAMINED,
THEN
BASED ON
GRANDPA'S
RESEARCH,
THE GOV-
ERNMENT
...WILL
DECIDE TO
Wipe OUT
ANAKA-
SAMA.

GRANDPA'S
RESEARCH
WILL BE
DELETED
FOR ALL
ETERNITY

BUT WHEN
THAT HAPPENS,
EVERYTHING
ABOUT ANAKA-
SAMA SYNDROME,
INCLUDING ITS
VERY EXISTENCE,
WILL BE ERASED
FROM HISTORY





...AND I
WISH THEY
WOULD HAVE
BROUGHT IT
BACK INTO
THE LIGHT
OF DAY

IF IT
ONLY HAD
CONTINUED
TO EXIST,
THEN SOME-
ONE, SOMEONE
WOULD HAVE
REALIZED THE
SIGNIFICANCE
OF THIS
WORK...



...THEN
GRANDPA'S
RESEARCH
MAY HAVE FOR-
EVER LIVED IN
SHADOW...

IF I
HADN'T
DECIDED
TO DO
THIS...

...BUT IT
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
OBLITER-
ATED.



...I
DE-
STROYED
THAT
POSSI-
BILITY.

BUT
I...



WAS I
WRONG?





SHOULD
I NEVER
HAVE TRIED
TO CARRY
ON HIS
LEGACY?

BUT
WHAT IF
I WAS?



THAT'S
IMPOS-
SIBLE.
YOU CAN'T
HAVE BEEN
WRONG...!

CALM
DOWN,
MAYO!!!



...WOULD THIS
NEVER HAVE
HAPPENED?

IF I
HADN'T
STARTED
HELPING
GRANDPA
WITH HIS
WORK...



THAT'S
RIGHT.



THEN
GRANDPA'S
RESEARCH
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
ERADI-
CATED.

...I
SHOULD
NEVER
HAVE
ASKED
GRANDPA
FOR
HELP.



NO,
EVEN
BEFORE
THAT...



I SHOULD HAVE STAYED THERE WITHOUT ASKING GRANDPA TO COME HELP ME.

THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE CAUSED ANY TROUBLE TO GRANDPA OR ANYONE ELSE.

I SHOULD HAVE STAYED AT THAT ORPHANAGE.



...DIRTY...

I SHOULD HAVE DROWNED IN THAT SEA OF WASTE.

SMELLY...

...AND WRETCHED!!

HAVE I ALWAYS BEEN SO WEAK-MINDED?

WHY AM I SO WORKED UP?

WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME??



NO, IT CAN'T BE TRUE...

HOW COULD I EVER THINK THAT I'VE BEEN WASTING MY TIME?





I...I...

**WHY
AREN'T
YOU
HERE!?**



**PLEASE,
JIROU-
SAN!
BE HERE
WITH
ME!!**



**JIROU-
SA—**



*Oh
Takao...
I...*



ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY TO HIS SPA-CHANT?



BY THE WAY, OLA, ERG...

...MR. YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE JIROU-SAN IS, WOULD YOU?





BUT BEFORE I COULD GET THAT LAST FLAG, MY PARENTS DIED IN AN ACCIDENT.

I HAD DECIDED THAT WHEN I GOT THIRTY FLAGS, I COULD MAKE A WISH THAT WOULD COME TRUE. I MADE IT UP TO MYSELF.

SHUN TAKAGI



...AND WHEN I ESCAPED, THE ONE WHO SAVED ME...

AFTER THAT, I WENT TO A HORRIBLE ORPHAN-AGE...

I HAD NO IDEA...

.....



...WAS THE LATE HIFUME TAKAGI-SENSEI...

!!

AND
TOMOR-
ROW...

...I'LL
LOSE
HIM.

SO THAT'S
WHY YOU'RE
SO PASSIONATE
ABOUT THE
HINAMIZARA
SYNDROME
RESEARCH...



BUT
I...

...I'VE LOST
GRANDPA'S
RESEARCH.







IT HELPS
US SEE
THE LITTLE
HAPPINESSSES
...THAT WE
MISSSED
BEFORE.





I CAN'T
WAIT
FOR THE
FESTIVAL
TOMOR-
ROW.



DR.
IRE.



*I'M SURE
IT WILL BE
MAGNIFICENT.*





YES,
TAKANO-
SAN...

...IS OUR
ENEMY.



THEN
IT'S
JUST
AS RIKA-
CHAN
SUG-
GESTED
...

I SEE...
THAT
MAKES
HER
MOTIVE
EVEN
CLEAR-
ER.



NOW
I CAN
UNDER-
STAND.

.....



...THAT I
SAY SOME
INSENSITIVE
THINGS THAT
HURT HER
FEELINGS.

AND IN MY
IGNORANCE,
IT'S
POSSIBLE...



I UNDER-
STAND WHY
SHE WAS SO
OBSESSED
WITH THE
RESEARCH
...



AND
THERE...
MAYBE IT
WOULDN'T
HAVE
TURNED
INTO
THIS...



I'M THE
DIRECTOR OF
THE FACILITY IF
ONLY I'D BEEN
ABLE TO BUILD
A RELATIONSHIP
WITH HER SO
THAT WE COULD
HAVE TALKED
MORE.

I MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO EASE
SOME OF THE
PAIN IN HER
HEART...



BESIDES,
THERE
HASN'T
BEEN A
DISASTER
YET.

IT
WOULDN'T
DO
ANY GOOD
TO THINK
LIKE THAT
NOW.



IT'S
NOT OVER
YET.

HE'S
RIGHT.
IT ALL
STARTS
TOMOR-
ROW.



YES...

THERE
ARE STILL
THINGS
WE CAN
DO.



**OYASHIRO-
SAMA'S
CURSE WILL
END AT THE
FIFTH YEAR.**

**WE'LL
SEE TO
THAT.**



**PLEASE
LISTEN
CAREFULLY.**

**NOW I'M
GOING TO
TELL YOU
HOW WE CAN
CONTACT EACH
OTHER IN AN
EMERGENCY.**





OKONOMI
LAND-
SCAPING



DR. IRIS
HAS LEFT
R'S HOME.

GOOD.
KEEP UP
SURVEL-
LANCE.



KEEPING
WATCH ON
A LITTLE
GIRL IS
DEFINITELY
NOT MY
IDEA OF
FUN.



K
UNDER-
STOOD,
COM-
MANDER
OKO-
NOMI.





I DON'T KNOW WHAT I DID WRONG TO LAND MYSELF A JOB AS THE LEADER OF THE WILD BOSS INTO GANG...

I'M A COMBAT GUY. I'VE SPECIALIZED IN DIRTY DEALING MY WHOLE LIFE.



THE LAST TIME I USED MY GUN WASN'T BEEN FIVE YEARS BACK.



...BUT IT'S GOTTEN ME AWAY FROM THE ACTION.



...AND THE RET-REARDING THE-LEAD DETECTIVE.

AGAINST THE FAT OLD MAN...



THIS TIME,
I CAN
REALLY
SMELL THE
SMOKE
OF THE
BATTLE-
FIELD.

OPERATION
APOCALYPSE
STARTS
TOMOR-
ROW...



AND I'VE
BEEN
TRAINING
HARD SO
I'D BE
READY

I'VE BEEN
LONGING
FOR THE
DAY WHEN I
FINALLY GET
ANOTHER
BATTLE
ORDER.

...IT MAKES
ME SICK
TO THINK
THAT EVERY
KIDNAPPING
WAS MY
LAST REAL
FIGHT



ONE
THAT WILL
SATISFY MY
PRIDE...

GIVE ME
A REAL
BATTLE...



?

COMMUN-
DOR, PLEASE
FOR YOU







JUST A FEW
DAYS AGO, I
WAS READY
TO GIVE IN
COMPLETELY
TO MY
DESTINY.



TO THINK
THAT EVERY-
THING WOULD
CHANGE SO
DRASTICALLY
IN JUST A
FEW DAYS.



NORMALLY, I
THINK WE'D
WANT TO DO IT
IN THE MIDDLE
OF THE NIGHT,
BUT NOT
THIS TIME.

IT'S VITAL
THAT WE
TIME OUR
SURPRISE
ATTACK
JUST RIGHT...



RIGHT.

THEN THE
NEXT MOST
IMPORTANT
MATTER OF
BUSINESS IS
HOW TO
TIME THE
TRAP!



THERE'S
A MUCH
MORE
IDEAL
TIME
FRAME.





IT'S LIKE
EVERY
MAN'S
LIFELONG
DREAM TO
TAKE PART
IN ONE OF
THESE!!

A DAWN
AMBUSH...
BROBAY!
WHAT THE
HICK,
MANY??



YEAH,
THAT
SHOULD
BE A
GOOD
TIME!

BEFORE
SUNRISE...



LET'S
DO IT,
SIR!

OH-
HO-HO! I
COULDN'T
ASK FOR
BETTER
TIMING!



ALLLL
RIGHT!



SO MAKE
SURE TO
STAY IN
THE BEST
POSSIBLE
CONDITION,
MENTALLY
AND PHYSI-
CALLY!

THINGS
WILL
PROBABLY
GET
CRAZY
IN A
HURRY!

I WANT
YOU ALL
READY TO
ADAPT
IMMEDI-
ATELY TO ANY
SITUATION!

WE
BEGIN
AT
0400
HOURS!

AS
YOUR
CLUB
PRESI-
DENT,
MON
SONO-
ZAKU!

I
ORDER
THE COM-
MENCE-
MENT OF
OPERATION
FORTY-
EIGHT
HOURS!!



AND
DON'T
FOR-
GET!!

IF THE
ENEMY
GETS INVOLVED
WITH THEIR
PLAY, THE
WHOLE
VILLAGE
COULD
BE DE-
STROYED!



THE FATE
OF HINA-
MIZAWA
RESTS ON
THIS ONE
BATTLE!!

YEAH
!!

HEY,
HANYU
...

AFTER
REPEATING
THE SAME
SCENARIO
SO MANY
TIMES, I
HAD COM-
PLETELY
FORGOTTEN
THIS.

NO, WE
HAVEN'T.
THERE HAVE
ALWAYS
BEEN
LOTS OF
FEELINGS
IN THIS
WORLD.

...COME
TOGETHER
IN ONE DAY
LIKE THIS
BEFORE,
HAVE
WE...?

WE'VE
NEVER
SEEN SO
MANY
FEEL-
INGS...

AND EVERY
SINGLE ONE
OF THEM HAS
FEELINGS THAT
ARE EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT
TO THAT
INDIVIDUAL.

BUT THERE
ARE ENOUGH
PEOPLE IN
THIS WORLD
TO MAKE
YOUR HEAD
SPIN.



...WHAT
KIND OF
WORLD
WILL WE
MEET?

YES, AND
IF ALL OF
THESE
FEELINGS
HAVE COME
TOGETH-
ER...

WHAT
KIND OF
FRAGMENT
WILL WE BE
GIVEN?

THESE
FEELINGS ARE
ALL COMING
TOGETHER AND
FORMING THIS
WORLD... THIS
FRAGMENT.





**NOW THE
TIME HAS
COME.**

**THE
TIME TO
OPEN
THE
DOOR...**

**...TO
JUNE 19,
1983.**



**WILL
TAKANO
EMERGE
VICTORI-
OUS?**



**OR
WILL
WE?**



**THE
LONGEST
DAY IN
HINAMIZAWA
IS ABOUT TO
BEGIN!!**

SHUNGI WHEN THEY CRY

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1994/05/01

ABOUT THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING" ARC: RUGGED AUSTERITY AND PASSION

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHIOT

HELLO, I'M RYUKISHIOT.

GOISHI IS A CHARACTER WITH FLAVOR. HE HAS A RUGGED AUSTERITY UNIQUE TO OLDER MEN. HIS ELDERLY POINT OF VIEW AND SPEECH PATTERN LEAVE A DEEP IMPRESSION, AND HE GIVES OFF THE AURA OF SOMEONE WITH A BROAD PERSPECTIVE. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, HE HASN'T FORGOTTEN THE PASSION OF HIS YOUTH, AND HE WORKS HARD TO SOLVE THE MURDERS BEFORE HE RETIRES. AND BECAUSE OF THAT, HE IS FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF HIS PENSION—A PROBLEM VERY FAR REMOVED FROM THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

HIS TRUE FEELINGS, THE IMAGE HE'S SET UP FOR HIMSELF, AND HIS FUTURE LIVELIHOOD... AFTER MUCH INNER CONFLICT AND TURMOIL, GOISHI WILL MOST LIKELY STILL CONTINUE TO PRESS TOWARD SOLVING THE MURDERS. HE WILL FINALLY REACH THE TRUTH IN THIS, THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING" ARC.

I HOPE HE EXPOSES THE TRUTH, RETIRES, AND LIVES HIS GOLDEN YEARS IN PEACE...NN-FU-FU.

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS FAR. THE DAY
OF THE COTTON DRIFTING IS ALMOST UPON US,
AND THE CLUB MEMBERS ARE MOVING INTO
POSITION FOR THEIR COUNTERATTACK. I
WILL DO MY BEST TO DRAW THE HEATED
DEVELOPMENTS. I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY IT.

AS I DRAW THE ANSWER ARCS WHILE LISTENING
TO THE HIGURASHI SOUNDTRACK, SOMETIMES I FIND MYSELF
LOOKING BACK ON THE QUESTION ARCS. WHEN I FIRST PLAYED
THROUGH THE QUESTION ARC VISUAL NOVELS, THEY WERE
SPOOKY, TERRIFYING, AND MYSTERIOUS—EVERYTHING YOU'D
WANT TO HELP YOU FEEL A CHILL IN THE SUMMER—AND I COULD
GET IT ANY TIME OF YEAR. LOOKING BACK, SOMETIMES I'LL BE
OVERWHELMED BY A SLIGHTLY DELAYED FEELING OF "BENNA'S SO
GREAT WHEN SHE'S FLIPPED OUT" (I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH
MYSELF), BUT THE EXTREME VARIATIONS IN TEMPERATURE, CHILLING
VERSUS HONCHILLING, ARE WHAT MAKE HIGURASHI SO APPEALING. I
THINK THAT IF I WERE TO ALTERNATELY DRAW QUESTION-AND-ANSWER
ARCS, I COULD EXPERIENCE A MENTAL ROLLER-COASTER RIDE. IT MAKES
ME WANT TO FIND TIME TO PLAY THROUGH THE QUESTION ARCS AGAIN.

HIGURASHI TAUGHT ME A LOT ABOUT THE CHARM OF PENALTY GAMES
AND VARIOUS DIFFERENT KINDS OF ACE. I THINK FONDLY ON THE DAYS
WHEN I AND SOMEONE TELL ME WHERE TO FIND MAID CAFES AND MAID
BARS IN ACHABARA, AND I STRUGGLE TO THEM TO UNDERSTAND BETTER
THE APPEAL OF HIGURASHI.



KARU
EVERETT

-SPECIAL THANKS-

-ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR-
RYUKISHIOT-SAMA, BT-SAMA,
YATAZAKURA-SAMA, TOKIJI-SAMA,
TSUBAKI NARUSE-SAMA, NEKOZAKURA-
SAMA, KARLUMI-SAMA

-MY EDITORS-
KOIZUMI-SAMA, KUBOTA-SAMA

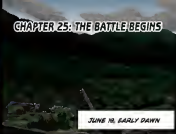
-MY STAFF-
JIN AKAGAMI-SAMA, SHIGETOMO
TANAKURA-SAMA, NAYU Y-SAMA,
NIHAKO-SAMA, NODA-SAMA,
TOMOKA FURUTA-SAMA, YF-SAMA,
YO-SHUN-SAMA

AND YOU!

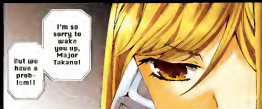


Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

CHAPTER 25: THE BATTLE BEGINS



JUNE 10, EARLY DAWN



I'm so
sorry to
wake
you up,
Major
Takanot

But we
have a
problem!



**RIKA
FURUDE
WAS
FOUND
DEAD!!**

CHAPTER 25: THE BATTLE BEGINS





HE
THOUGHT
HE WAS,
BUT...

HISN'T
YOU
WATCH-
ING
HER?

MYA
PARADE
IS AT
HOME
IN BED
WITH A
GUY!



THAT
CAN'T
BE
TRUE!

BUT
ACCORDING
TO OUR INTEL,
THE TIME
OF DEATH IS
EXTREMELY
BELIEVABLE—IT
CAME DIRECT
FROM
FORENSIC



AND
CLARENCE



AND THAT
MEANS THAT
GRANDPA'S
RESEARCH
WAS ALL
FALSE.

...IT
MEANS THAT
THE QUEEN
CARRER'S
DEATH WON'T
CAUSE A
MASS OUT-
BREAK.

ON
THE OFF
CHANCE
THAT
IT IS
TRUE...



THIS
HAS
GOT TO
BE A
RUSE!



AND IF
GRANDPA'S
RESEARCH
WAS ALL
FALSE...

NOT
CONFIRMED



...AND
GRANDPA'S
RESEARCH
WILL BE
ABANDONED!!

...THEN
THE CLIENT
WILL LOSE
INTEREST...



HOW
DID SHE
GET
WIND OF
THIS?

TCM...



SAY
SOME-
ONE TO
KNOWLEDGE
TO FIND
OUT MORE
ABOUT
THIS
BOSS!!

I'LL
TAKE IT
IN MY
OFFICE!



YOU
HAVE
A CALL
FROM
MOMURA
IN
TOKYO

MAJOR
TAKA-
NO!





TCH...

IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, THE TOP BRIDGE MIGHT NOT WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH OPERATION APOCALYPSE.

BUT WITH NO OTHER WITNESSES, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO DENY THIS BRIDGE REPORT.

IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO CONFIRM WITH THE DOCTOR.



BUT THE ONLY ONE WHO SAW IT IN PERSON WAS DR. TEE WHEE. HE WENT TO CHECK IN ON HER.

WE CAN CONFIRM THAT THE LIGHTS HAVE GONE ON AND OFF DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS.



IF WE CAN CONFIRM THAT RMA FURLOS IS STILL ALIVE, THAT WILL PUT AN END TO ALL OF THIS.

IF WE GO NOW, WE HAVE A SMALL WINDOW OF TIME.

COW-
MINDER,
SHOULD WE
BREAK INTO RMA
HOME?



AND SHE WON'T APPROVE ANYTHING UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AT OKINOMYA PRECINCT.

WE CAN'T DO THAT WITHOUT THE MAJOR'S APPROVAL!



BARBERS: COTTON CLOTHING FESTIVAL.





WAIT.

THAT IS
GREAT
TIMING.
TOO
GREAT..



...AND
THAT'S
WHEN
THEY'RE
MOST
VULNER-
ABLE.

PEOPLE
ALWAYS STOP
AND TAKE A
DEEP BREATH
RIGHT BEFORE
PLANNING IN
TO ATTACK...



WHenever
our
enemy

...IF THEY
READ OUR
MOVES THAT
CLOSELY, THEIR
LEADER MUST
REALLY KNOW
WHAT THEY'RE
DOING.



WE WERE
PLANNING
TO MAKE
THE FIRST
MOVE
TODAY

THIS IS
SOME
KIND OF
DELIB-
ERATE
ATTACK.

BUT
SOMEONE
HEAT US
TO THE
PUNCH.





QRT-
NOM/BI
PRE-
INCT



WHAT'S
GOING TO
JUMP OUT
AT US NOW
THAT WE'VE
MADE SO
MUCH ADD
ABOUT
NOTH-
ING...?



NM
FBI
FBI

ALL
RIGHT
THERE'S
NO
TURNING
BACK
NOW.



... THEN OUR
ENEMY WILL
MOVE OUT THE
AND FOLLOWED OUT
FROM UNDER
THEIR. THEY'LL
RUSH OVER
HERE IN A MINUTE,
FORING TO FIGHT
OUT THE TROOPS

IF WHAT
SINCE-SAY
AND HER
FRIENDS
SAY IS
TRUE...



WITH THE
HELP OF THE
OLD MEDICAL
EXAMINER,
WE'VE
LEARNED
FALSE
INFORMATION
ABOUT SINCE
FORGIVEN IF
DEATH





PREFEC-
TURAL
POLICE-
MAN
GOTAKA.

ONE OF THE
"GREAT ELITE"
WHO ONLY
CARES ABOUT
ACADEMIC
HISTORY
AND WORK
RECORDS.

NOW,
NOW.

HE'S JUST
AS INSUP-
FERABLE
AS EVER...

I WOULD
LOVE TO
STAY AND
CHAT, BUT
I'M HERE
ON URGENT
BUSINESS.

BUT HE IS
PROBABLY
JUST BEING
USED...
I BET HE
DIDN'T
KNOW ANY
OF THE
DETAILS.

TO
THINK
HE'S
AN
ENEMY
SFX...

I
POLITELY
REFUSE.

I ALREADY
HAVE THE
CHIEF'S PER-
MISSION, OF
COURSE.

I HOPE YOU'LL
ALLOW ME TO
CONFIRM THE
IDENTITY OF
THE JANE DOE
YOU FOUND.

WHAT
...?P



IT LOOKS
LIKE WE
ACCIDENTALLY
LET IT LEAK
OUT THAT
WE HAVE A
POSITIVE
I.D. ON THE
BODY.

WE'RE
STILL
WORKING
ON THE
AUTOPSY.

WE'LL NEED
A LITTLE
MORE TIME
BEFORE WE
CAN RELEASE
THE FULL
AUTOPSY
REPORT.



WE NEED TO
KEEP THAT
BOMBING CASE
AS LOW AS
POSSIBLE
SO THAT
THE BOMB
MAKERS (IT
KILL, AND
POSSIBLY
WILL BEAR
IT.

HOW IS
OUR ONLY
OPPORTUNITY
TO BRING UP
YOUR PLEA...
BUT THEY
STILL CAN'T
DISPROVE THE
POSSIBILITY
THAT YOUR
PLEA IS
TRUE.



THE SECOND
HE DISCOV-
ERS THAT WE
KILLED KING
FURLOH'S
DEATH...

I CAN'T
LET THIS
MAN GET
PAST ME.

... THIS
WHOLE
OPERATION
IS
OVER.



TO GIVE US
MORE TIME, I
HAVE TO STOP
THE ENEMY'S
ADVANCE
TROOPS.





WH-
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



IF
THAT'S
TRUE...

WHA...? I'M
HERE ON A TOP
SECRET INVESTI-
GATION—



YOU CAME
HERE LIKE A
GOOD LITTLE
DOG FOL-
LOWING HIS
MASTER'S
ORDERS.

OO-
TAKA-
KUN...

...YOU
DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING!



WH-
WHAT?



YOUR
MASTER IS
PLOTING
SOME-
THING
EVIL...

...I'LL
PUT IT
TO YOU
STRAI-
GHT



...THEN
MAKE ME
MOVE.

IF YOUR
DETECTIVE
SPIRIT IS
TIED UP
IN THIS
CASE...



...BUT YOUR
MASTER IS
INVOLVED IN A
TERRIBLE PLOT
THAT WILL RUIN
THE LIVES OF
THOUSANDS OF
PEOPLE.

YOU
PROBABLY
DON'T
KNOW
THIS...



THAT
SCHEME
IS ABOUT
TO FALL
APART...

...SO YOUR
MASTER
PANICKED AND
ORDERED YOU
TO INVESTI-
GATE.



...I'LL
NEVER
FORGIVE
YOU.

BUT IF
THAT CALLING
CHANGE
WEIGHS
MORE THAN
YOUR
DETECTIVE
SPIRIT...

I DON'T
KNOW
HOW MUCH
THEY'RE
OFFERING
YOU FOR
THIS.





YOUR
CAREER
AS A
DETECTIVE IS
OVER!

DO YOU
KNOW
HOW
MUCH
WEIGHT
THAT
CAR-
RIER?

ATTN!!
GADGONN!!
DETECTIVE
DEFENDING
THE DIS-
FECTURAL
POLICE.



I'M NOT
DONE
TALKING
TO YOU.

HEY, WAIT
JUST A
SECOND.



O-
OWN!

OWN!



OH?
I DIDN'T
THINK I WAS
HOLDING
YOU THAT
TIGHTLY

W-WHILE
YOU
PLEASE
LET GO
OF MR.
KUDO-SAN!!



UHH...
URGH...

...YOU
SHOULD
BE ABLE
TO TEAR
OUT OF MY
GRIP NO
PROBLEM

IF THIS
JOB
CARRIES
ANY
QUANTITY
FOR YOU...



BECAUSE
YOU
HAVE NO
DETECTIVE
SPIRIT—
NO PRIDE.



OH—
GOD!!

BUT YOU
CAN'T EVEN
SHAKE OFF
MY LITTLE
HAND.

OH—
GOD!!
SAN...



ME? OH,
THE STAKES
ARE PRETTY
HEAVY
FOR ME.

WHAT
STAKE
DO YOU
HAVE IN
THIS,
THEN?



LET
GO
OF
ME...

DAH-
MIT...



ALL
THIS
NON-
SENSE
ABOUT
'DETC-
TIVE
SPIRIT'

WHAT
IS
WRONG
WITH
YOU?



I'M
CARRYING THE
LIVES OF THE
TWO THOUSAND
VILLAGERS IN
HIMARIZAWA.



WHAT...?



OYAS-
SAN
TAUGHT
ME
THAT...



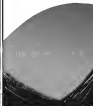
SOME-
TIMES A
DETECT-
IVE'S
GOTTA DO
WHAT A
DETECT-
IVE'S
GOTTA
DO!!

—BUT
EVEN
SO!

WHAT I'M
DOING
GONE
AGAINST
ALL THE
WISDOM
OF MY
PRO-
FESS-
SION

...IF YOU
WANT TO
GET PAST
ME...

AND
THAT'S
WHY...



...WITH
HIS
FIST!!



...YOU'LL
NEED
DETER-
MINATION
ENOUGH
TO PUSH
ASIDE TWO
THOUSAND
VILLAGERS
!!







WELL,
WELL,
WELL.



WHO
ARE
YOU?

SABURO-
SAN, DID
YOU ASK
HIM TO
COME
HERE?



WHA...
THIS IS TOO
GOOD. ALL
I CAN DO
IS LAUGH.

...JUST
BE
INTRO-
DUCED
YOU

COMM-
SABU, COULD
YOU EXPLAIN
JUST WHAT
IS HAPPENING
HERE?



YOU SEE,
I AM GOOD
FRIENDS
WITH
ASSEM-
BLYMAN
SONOZAKI,
AND —

I AM
COMING
FROM THE
PRESPEC-
TURAL POLICE.

...WHY,
HELLO
THERE,
CITIZENS.



OH,
SONO-
ZAKI...

...HEART



VICE
PRESIDENT
OF THE
SHISHIBONE
LADIES' KENDO
ASSOCIA-
TION.

THIS IS
AKANE
SONOZAKI-
SAN.



OR
RATHER,
SONO-
ZAKI-
SENSEI.

ELECTED
ASSEMBLY-
MAN FOR
THE SHISHI-
BONE
SECOND
DISTRICT.

AND THIS
IS SABURO
SONOZAKI-
SAN.



...ASSEMBLY
MAN...?

...
RUH
...?



SOMETHING
ABOUT YOU
BRING GOOD
FRIENDS
WITH ME?

WHAT
WAS
THAT,
THEN?



...AND HERE
WE FIND
A POLICE
OFFICER
THROWING
AROUND THE
SENATOR'S
NAME.

HON-
ESTLY, WE
CAME TO
THE POLICE
STATION
WITH A
MANAGE-
MENT COM-
PLAINT...



ER...
LUL...





NOW,
THEN.



THE BATTLE
FOR THE
FATE OF
HINAKAWA
HAS ONLY
JUST
BEGUN...

BACK TO
GUARD
DUTY. I
WON'T LET
ANYONE
THROUGH.



... BUT HE
PROBABLY
WON'T.

I HOPE
GOTAKU-
KUN WILL
LEARN
SOMETHING
FROM ALL
OF THIS.

I GUESS
THINGS DO
HAPPEN
SOME-
TIMES...

AHH...



**EVERYONE...
THE REST IS
UP TO YOU!**



DR. IRIE (CRIES)



"CONFIRMED
HER
PRESENCE?"
THAT'S NOT
A NICE
WAY TO
PUT IT.

I HEARD
SHE HAD
CAUGHT A
SUMMER
COLD, SO
I WENT TO
CHECK UP
ON HER.

YOU CONFIRMED
R'S PRESENCE
IN HER HOME
YESTERDAY,
DIDN'T YOU?



WE ONLY
HAVE IRIE'S
TESTIMONY
TO SUPPORT
ANY CLAIM
THAT RIKA
FURUDE IS
AT HER
HOME!

WE CAN'T
DEPEND ON
THAT...!



YOU'RE
ABSOLUTELY
SURE?!

SO
RIKA-
CHAN IS
STILL
IN THE
HOUSE,
RIGHT?



WHY
WOULDN'T
SHE
BE...?

...? YES...







...AND
THEY'RE
STARTING
TO WANT
TO GET
OFF THIS
FLIGHT.

THEY
THINK
THERE
MIGHT BE A
DEFECT IN
THE PLANE
YOU ARE
PILOTING...

OUR
CLIENTS
FEEL THE
SAME.



KNOW
—



...YOUR
GRAND-
FATHER'S
RESEARCH
WILL NEVER
BE ACKNOWL-
EDGED.

...IN
OTHER
WORDS
...

...IF IT
TAKES ANY
LONGER FOR
THE SITUATION
TO RESOLVE,
THEN THIS
FLIGHT PLAN
WILL BE
CANCELED.



...
GHI!

THAT'S
THE
STUPIDEST
THING
I'VE EVER
HEARD!!

IF ONE
GIRL DIES,
THEN A
WHOLE
VILLAGE
WILL GO
MAD?





I'm behind you. I want you to reach the ending that will bring you the most happiness.

I am your only friend.



WHERE DID IT GO WRONG...?

THE PLAN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOOL-PROOF!

THAT WOMAN...!!

GGG!



LOOK-FAST-SEE!

DO WE OR NOT? LOOK-FAST!

AREN'T YOU PEOPLE FIRST? LET'S GO! LET'S GO! TAKE THEM!





IF HE'D
JUST BEEN A
GOOD BOY AND
STAYED WHERE
HE WAS...I WOULD
HAVE AT LEAST
LET HIM ENJOY
THE FESTIVAL
BEFORE HE
DIED

THAT
STUPID
MAN...

DO YOU
HAVE
SOME-
THING
TO DO
WITH
THIS...?

FUJIKI-
SAN...
HOW CAN
YOU BE
ABSENT
AT A
TIME
LIKE
THIS...?



...THEN I
CAN THINK
OF ANOTHER
PERSON WHO
MAY HAVE
TURNED ON
ME AS WELL...

THAT'S
RIGHT...
IF TOMI-
YAKI'S
BETRAYED
ME...



HA
GASHI
は



HE'S THE
ONLY ONE
WHO CON-
FIRMED RICK
FURBER'S
PRESENCE
AT HER
HOME.

IRIE
IS ALREADY
SUSPICIOUS
THAN
ANYONE.



WHO CAN
VERIFY
THAT
WHAT
IRIE
SAYS IS
TRUTH?



...AND
HAS
GONE INTO
HIDING
SOME-
WHERE
ELSE...

TOMITAKE
HAS
HIDDEN
HIMSELF
AWAY.

MAYBE
RICK
HAD
ALREADY
LEFT HER
HOUSE
TOO...



DR.
IRIE.





KEEP
AN EYE
ON DR.
IRIE!



GOOD
NEWS,
MA-
JORY!

JUST
DO
IT!



DON'T
TELL ME
YOU THINK
DR. IRIE
HAS
TURNED
AGAINST
US?

DR.
IRIE?



!

OUR
TOKYO
INVESTI-
GATION
TEAM...
...HAS
FOUND
TOMI-
TAKE!!



I
WONDER
WHAT
TAKANO-
SAN IS
DOING
NOW...



I'VE
BEEN
STAYING
OUT IN
THIS
HOTEL
FOR
THREE
DAYS.



THEN I
CAN CALL A
WATCHDOG
TEAM FROM
TOKYO AND
STOP THE
ENEMY.

NOW I MAY
BE ABLE TO
GET SOME
PROOF OF THE
CONSPIRACY
AGAINST
RIKA-CHAN.



...STAYING
THAT LONG-
CHAN, THE
QUEEN
CARRIED
OVER MORE
THAN FORTY-
EIGHT
KIDNAPERS APO.

ACCORDING
TO MY INVESTI-
GATIONS,
A STRANGE
REPORT
CAME OUT OF
OSAKA'S
PRESENCE...



IT WAS
A GOOD
WAY TO
SHAKE
UP THE
ENEMY.

IT'S
MOST
LIKELY
PART OF
A PLAN
THAT-CHAN
AND HER
FRIENDS
CAN-
DOOTER.



...EXPOSING
TAKANO-
SAN'S
WRONG-
DOING.



BUT...
THAT
WOULD
MEAN...



SOMEONE
IS USING
HER
DEVIS-
TATION, THAT'S
ALL.

PERHAPS...
THAT'S
NOT
WHAT SHE
REALLY
WANTS.



SHE MUST
BE TRYING
TO BRING A
MAJORITY
END TO HER
SECOND
FATHER'S
WORK.

BY THEN
REVEALING THAT
TAKANO-SAN
WAS BEING USED
CAME DOWN
TO MEET
UP AGAINST
MEMBERS OF
THE ONE
FUTURE.



I'VE BEEN
RIGHT HERE
BY YOUR SIDE,
BUT I COULDN'T
TAKE YOUR
SADNESS
AWAY.

TAKANO-
SAN, I'M
SORRY...





**THE WILD
DOGS!!**



**IF
THEY USE A
MASTER KEY,
THEY'LL HAVE
NO TROUBLE
GETTING IN.**

**THIS
CHEAP
HOTEL
HAS NO
GAINS ON THE
DOORS.**



**THE WILD
DOGS
HAVE
FIGURED
OUT
WHERE
I AM.**

DAMN.



**THAT'S
THE ONE
THING I
HAVE TO
AVOID...!**

**AND IF
THEY
CATCH
ME NOW,
I WON'T
BE ABLE
TO CALL
IN ANY
WATCH-
DOGS.**



WHA
...?





JUST
HOW
FIT IS
HE?!

WOULD
NOW CAN
ANYONE
RUN THAT
FAST
AFTER
JUMPING
FROM A
WINDOW?!



I'VE BEEN
TRAINING
MYSELF
EVERY DAY
FOR JUST
SUCH AN
OCCASION
AS THIS.

IT'S
NOT THAT
STRANGE.



GET
HIM!!

RE-
QUEST-
ING
BACKUP!

THIS IS
SAYLARK 10
TO SAYLARK 11! TARGET
LOCATED!



RRR-
RAAA
AGH!!



IT'S
TOM-
TAKET!!

THERE
HE IS!



WHAT
IF?



I HAVE
TO STOP
THE WILD
DOGS!
TAKE
OVER,
AND...

OF COURSE
THEY CAN'T.
I HAVE CON-
VICTIONS, AND
I'M GOING
TO SEE THEM
THROUGH.



I CAN
DO
THIS.

THEY
CAN'T
STOP ME
NOW.

NOBODY
CAN STOP
ME NOW—
NOT EVEN
THE WILD
DOGS.



...BEFORE
SHE MAKES
THIS
TERRIBLE
MISTAKE!!

...I HAVE
TO BE
THE ONE
TO STOP
TAKANO-
SAN...



RRRRRAAUGH!!







HEH.

HE-HE'S
ADVOCAT-
INGLY
OUTRIM-
BRASH!!

AND
WE STILL
CAN'T
STOP
HIM?

WOOD
CHARGED

...BUT TO
WARN
THEM:
IF YOU
DON'T
WANT
TO GET
HURT,
GET OUT
OF THE
WAY.

TOMI-
TAKE
GRIN-
NED
FEAR-
LESS-
LY...?

NO
WAY!!

IM-
POS-
SIBLE
!!

62
3

NO. IT
WAS
NOT A
GRIN.

NOT
BE-
CAUSE
THEY
WILL
HURT
THE
TRAIN
∞



WAAA-
AAAH!!

RRR-
AAA-
AAAH!

OUT
OF MY
WAAAY
!!!

STEAM
ENGINES
DON'T
SMILE!!



SH
TAKU





BRING
HIM
HERE.

DON'T
KILL HIM
YET.

I HAVE
SOME
THINGS I
WANT TO
ASK HIM.





CHAPTER 26: ESCAPE





I WAS
RIGHT
TO SEND
THE WILD
DOGS TO
FIND HIM.

I
WONDERED
WHY I HADN'T
SEEN JEDDO-
SAN AROUND.
APPARENTLY
HE'S BEEN
OVERCOME BY
THE TERMINAL
SYMPTOM.



OH
NO...

T-
TERMINAL
SYMP-
TOM?



I DO
HOPE IT
WORKS.

I WILL
ADMINISTER
THE
MEDICINE
TO HIM
NOW.



THEY'VE
CAPTURED
TOMITAKE-
SAN.

THIS IS
BAD.



HE'S NOT
IN THE FINAL
STAGES —
SHE'S
LYING.
THEY
MUST HAVE
FIGURED OUT
THAT HE WAS
GOING TO
CALL IN SOME
WATCHDOGS.



IF I
DON'T DO
SOME-
THING...

...THEY'LL
KILL
HIM...!



I HAVE
TO DO
SOMETHING —
ANYTHING —
TO HELP
TOMTAKES-
SAN...

IF WE LOSE
TOMTAKES-
SAN, WE
WOULDN'T BE
ABLE TO
CONTACT
TOKYO OR
CALL IN A
WATCHDOG
TEAM.

OUR
PLAN
WILL
END IN
FAILURE.



I HAVE
TO DO
SOMETHING —
ANYTHING —
TO HELP
TOMTAKES-
SAN...

IF WE LOSE
TOMTAKES-
SAN, WE
WOULDN'T BE
ABLE TO
CONTACT
TOKYO OR
CALL IN A
WATCHDOG
TEAM.

OUR
PLAN
WILL
END IN
FAILURE.



I HAVE
TO DO
SOMETHING —
ANYTHING —
TO HELP
TOMTAKES-
SAN...

IF WE LOSE
TOMTAKES-
SAN, WE
WOULDN'T BE
ABLE TO
CONTACT
TOKYO OR
CALL IN A
WATCHDOG
TEAM.

OUR
PLAN
WILL
END IN
FAILURE.

WOULD THAT EVEN BE POSSIBLE...?

SHOULD
I SLIP
PAST THE
WILD
DOGS
AND
GET HIM
OUT...?

BUT
WHAT
DO I
DO...?

SHOULD
I SLIP
PAST THE
WILD
DOGS
AND
GET HIM
OUT...?

BUT
WHAT
DO I
DO...?

は

IRIE-SENSEI, BE VERY CAREFUL.

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IF YOU FEEL
FROM THE
SLIGHTEST
SENSE OF
FOOLISHNESS,
YOU SHOULD
CONSIDER
IT AN EMER-
GENCY.

IT'S VERY
DIFFICULT TO
RESIST WHEN
YOU ARE IN
DANGER.

IF YOU
CAREEN ON
ACCUSING
YOURSELF
FOR THE GUILT,
YOU MIGHT
LOSE YOUR
CHANCE TO
CALL FOR HELP.

RIGHT,
AKASAKA-
SAN
WARNED
ME.



WHEN THAT
HAPPENS,
GET OUT OF
THE LAB AND
MEET AT THE
BOYSGIRLS!



...HE
WAS
RIGHT
ABOUT
RIGHT.

THE EMER-
GENCY THAT
AKASAKA-SAN
WAS TALKING
ABOUT...



I SHOULD
GO TO THE
OTHERS
FOR HELP.

IT WOULD BE
FOOLISH TO
TRY TO HELP
TOMITAKE-
SAN ON MY
OWN.



I'LL GO
TO OUR
EMERGENCY
SERVICES
POINT AND
WORK OUT A
PLAN WITH
EVERYONE'S
HELP!

THERE'S
NOT MUCH
TIME, BUT
IT SHOULD
BE LONG
ENOUGH.



SHE
PLANS TO
KILL HIM
TOMORROW
TO MAKE
IT LOOK
LIKE THE
FIFTH
YEAR'S
CURSE.

AKASAKI-
SAN
PROBABLY
WON'T KILL
TOMIYAS-
SAN YET!
BROOK



...I SHOULD
CONTACT
AKASAKI-
SAN AND LET
HIM KNOW
WE HAVE AN
EMERGENCY...



THAT
BEING
THE CASE,
BEFORE I
MAKE MY
ESCAPE...



IF RIEA PURUDE ANSWERS THE PHONE, WE CAN CONFIRM THAT SHE'S STILL ALIVE.



RIE MUST BE PANICKING NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THROUGH.



AND IT
HASN'T TO
BREAK
TO EACH
OTHER
OVER THE
PHONE.

AKASAKA-
SAN AND I
DISCUSSED
HOW TO
CONTACT
EACH OTHER
IN AN
EMERGENCY.



WE SEND A
MESSAGE
BY LETTING
THE PHONE
RING.





THE PHONE
WILL ALSO
WORK AS A
DIVERSION
TO DISTRACT
TAKANO-
SAN.



...THAT
WILL TELL
HIM THAT
THERE'S
BEEN AN
EMER-
GENCY.

IF THE
PHONE
RINGS AT
KIKU-CHAN'S
HOUSE FOR
MORE THAN
THREE MIN-
UTES...



I HAVE TO
USE THIS
CHANCE TO
MAKE MY
ESCAPE!!









IF THE
PHONE RINGS
FOR THREE
MINUTES,
THAT'S OUR
SIGNAL THAT
THERE'S
BEEN AN
EMERGENCY.



THAT'S
THREE
MIN-
UTES...



SOME-
THING'S
HAPPENED
TO IRIE-
SAMI



**IT'S TIME
TO COME
OUT OF
HIDING.**

**WE AGREED
TO MEET
AT THE
"SONOZAKI'S"
IN AN
EMERGENCY.**







HO,
this is
Nightingale 5.

We have
visual on
Irie's
vehicle.

...HE'S
FASTER
THAN A
SPEEDING
BULLET!!

!!

GRR
...!!

WHAT
THE HELL
IS GOING
ON!?

!-
roger
that!!

PHU...
WHAT
DOES
THAT
EVEN
MEAN
IT?

ANYWAY!
GIVE HIM
NEARLY
SURVEIL-
LANCE
COORDI-
NATES AND
CATCH
HIM!!



IT'S
CURRENTLY EN ROUTE
TO FURUDE
SHRINE.



WE
QUICKLY
RETURNED
TO THE
FIRE.

AT THIS
RATE, WE'LL
COME OUT
INTO THE
FESTIVAL'S
PEDESTRIAN
TRAFFIC.







UWAAAAAAAH...

SHOCK CUMING

GNAH!?









I SWORE
I WOULD
PREVENT
ANY MORE
THINGS
LIKE
SATOSHI-
KUN'S...

...BY
ERADICATING
ANALYZING
SYNDROME.



I CAN'T
LET
THEM
CATCH
ME...!!









...
NO!

I CAN'T
GO TO THE
CLINIC...
TH... THE
SONOZA-
KIS'...

PLEASE,
TAKE
ME TO
THE
SONO-
ZAKIS'...



WHAT
DID
HAPPEN,
COACH?

WE SAW
SMOKE
AND CAME
TO SEE
WHAT HAD
HAPPENED...



YOU'RE
BADLY
HURT.

WE HAD
BETTER
GET YOU
TO THE
CLINIC.

AND...
...





**IMPOS-
SIBLE!**

**HOW
COULD
YOU LET
HIM GET
AWAY...!?**



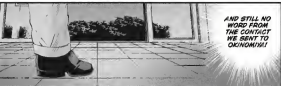
**IT'S BEEN
ONE UPSET
AFTER
ANOTHER.**



**THEN
THERE'S
TRUE'S
UNUSUALLY
CLEVER
ESCAPE.**



**THEY STILL
HAVEN'T
CAUGHT THE
MAN THEY
SAY CAME
RUNNING
OUT OF THE
FURUDE HOME.**



**AND STILL NO
WORD FROM
THE CONTACT
WE SENT TO
OKINOMIYA!**









WE MEET
AT THE
SONOZAKI
ESTATE.



ALL UNITS,
ASSEMBLE.



THAT'S
WHERE
WE'LL
FIND R.



THE OFFICIAL
TENNIS COUNTRY
TENNIS COURT
DESIGNED BY
FREDERICK THAYER
HARRIS, 1903

THE
 CHAIRMAN
 OF THE
 JOINT CHIEFS
 OF STAFF
 AND THE
 SECRETARY
 OF DEFENSE

HEB-
HEB-HEB
NOT DOUBT
ABOUT
IT.

THE TARGET VEHICLE WAS STOPPED IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL'S GATE.

THAT IS
WHERE I
AM WORKING

**NOW WE
BEGIN OUR
COUNTER-
ATTACK!!**

CHAPTER 27: BATTLE AT THE SONOZAKI ESTATE



**CHAPTER 27: BATTLE AT
THE SONOZAKI ESTATE**





THE WILD
DOGS HAVE
CAPTURED
TOMITAKE-
SAN.



YES,
FOR
NOW.

IS HE
ALL
RIGHT?

THEY
WILL
KILL HIM
TOMORROW
SO IT
LOOKS
LIKE THE
CURSE



IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU
ALL HAVE
A STORY
TO TELL
US.

WE HAVE
TO GET
HIM OUT
BEFORE
THEN...



WE
HAPPENED
ACROSS
GOMOH WHEN
HE WAS
HURT.

SHON,
KASAL
WHY
ARE YOU
HERE?







ドン

バ

ドン

THEY'RE AFTER US!
EVERYBODY RUN!

WE'LL OVERPOWER THEM.

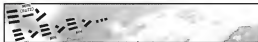
THERE ARE TWO ADULTS.
THE REST OF THEM ARE CHILDREN.













...MAN, THOSE SONOZAKIS. I DIDN'T REALIZE THEY WERE SO DAMN RICH.

PHOENIX L. COPY

The door is made of steel. We can't break through.



NEVER MIND SURROUNDING THEM. WE HELP THEM BREAK IN.

THE GROUNDS ARE TOO BIG. WE CAN'T SURROUND 'EM.



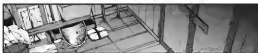
SURE, NO ONE WILL MISS ME, BUT THE BLAST WOULD BE LOUD ENOUGH TO ALERT THE VILLAGERS.

NO, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GET OFF AN EXPLOSION HERE.



PHOENIX L. COPY

WE HAVE SOME INDOOR-USE PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES. SHOULD WE PREPARE TO USE THEM?





THEY'RE
MUCH STRON-
GER THAN
WE ARE...
THIS WILL
BE A TOUGH
BATTLE.



NO...
THEY'RE
TRYING TO
KILL RKA-
CHAMA...?



...
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

HEE
HEE!



H-HE'S
RIGHT,
SHION!
YOU CAN
COUNT
ON ME!

WE'LL
BE FINE.
THIS IS
OUR CLUB.
WE'RE
TALKING
ABOUT!



RIGHT.
WE
SHOULD
MAKE
OUR
NEXT
MOVE.

WE
SHOULD
GET OUT
OF HERE
WHILE THE
ENEMY IS
BUSY
BING.



THEY'LL
PROBABLY
DO WHAT-
EVER THEY
CAN TO
OPEN THAT
DOOR.

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
THEIR
NEXT
MOVE
WILL BE,
SAY?



HAVE YOU
CALLED THE
POLICE?

I KNOW,
ONEE!



AND IT'S
A GOOD
IDEA TO
CONTACT
GONJI-
SAN.

THE
BERRY
ALREADY
KNOWS
EVERYTHING
WE'RE UP
TO HERE.

WE DON'T
NEED TO
WORRY ABOUT
THAT SPY AT
THE POLICE
STATION ANY-
MORE.



OH
YEAH! I'D
FORGOTTEN
ALL ABOUT
OUR FIRST
MEET AS
CITIZENS!

IN A SITU-
ATION LIKE
THIS, IT'S
ALWAYS
GOOD TO
CALL THE
POLICE.



HE'S
SURE
TO
COME
RUN-
NING!



...



KASAI
GET OUT
YOUR
LIGHTER

PLEASE
STAY
CALM

...W-
WHAT
AND
PAINED
A
BLACK-
OUT??

AAAAH
??



WE
SHOULD
GET OUT
OF HERE
FAST,
SIRS.

THEY'VE
GOTTEN
ON A RAGE
AND IT'S
WORTH-
LESS

I DON'T
THINK
THEY'D
CUT OFF
OUR PHONE
AND OUR
POWER...

...DIDN'T
THEY
GOT US





IT'S BRIM-
BRIGHT
OUT THERE!

THE VOL-
CANES
WOULD
NEARLY
EXPLO-
SION!

AND
THEY
WOULD
NEVER
FLOW
UP THE
POOR
WOULD
THEY?

IF I KNOW
ONOGUCHI-SAN,
HE WON'T LIST
THEIR USE
EXPLOSIVES IN
THE MIDDLE
OF THE
DAY.



THE
WILD
DOGS
ARE
VERY
METICU-
LOUS.



THE
COTTON
DRESS-
ING...

AH...!!



THERE'S NO
SUCH THING
AS BUTTER
WHY BOMB
YOU USE. IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
TO BLENDE
AN EXPLO-
SION
AND
TODAY
IS THE
COTTON
WEAVING
SO THERE
ARE A LOT
OF PEOPLE
OUTSIDE
SOMEONE IS
BOUND TO
NEAR IT

MAYBE
THEY
HAVE A
SILENT
BOMB?



AND
THEY CUT
OUR POWER
SO WE
WOULDN'T
CATCH
ON?

MAYBE
THEY HAVE
SOME WAY
TO BREAK
THE DOOR
DOWN
REALLY
FAST.



THE
SECURITY
CAMERA'S
OFFLINE
TOO...

IT
CAN'T
BE...



THEY
SEEM
LIKE THE
TYPE.

I DON'T
KNOW, BUT
THEY PROBABLY
HAVE SOME
KIND OF SAGGET
TO HELP THEM
SEE IN THE
DARK.

BUT IF
IT'S SO DARK,
WOULDN'T THEY
HAVE A HEAD
LAMP ONCE
THEY GET
NEAR
THE
DOOR?



...WELL,
ASSUMING
IT'S FOR
ACROSS THEM
JUST TO
BUSTERS
UP...

WOULD THEY
ENJOY CUT
OFF OUR
ELECT-
RICITY?



...MAYBE IT'S
TO KILL OUR
SECURITY
SYSTEM?



I
FIGURED
IT OUT!
I KNOW
WHAT
THEY'RE
TRYING
TO DO!!

~~~~~



YOU'RE NOT  
THE ONLY  
ONE WHO  
CAN TAKE  
ADVANTAGE  
OF WHAT  
SAY IT  
IS!

HEH  
HEH...



COMMAND-  
ER, IT'S  
ALMOST  
TEN  
O'CLOCK.



THE SOUND  
WILL BE  
HEARD ALL  
ACROSS THE  
VILLAGE.



...TO LET THE  
VILLAGERS  
KNOW THAT  
THE FESTIVAL  
IS HAPPEN-  
ING AS  
PLANNED.

THEY'LL  
SHOOT OFF  
FIREWORKS  
AT TEN  
O'CLOCK...







CHARGE!!

THE  
DOOR  
IS  
DOWN!!

CHARGE!!

F!!







ONE WRONG  
STEP, AND  
YOU'RE A  
GONE. AND  
I'M NOT  
KIDDING.

THE  
ONLY THING  
WE HAVE  
TO CLIMB  
ON IS THIS  
UNSTABLE  
LADDER.

YOU  
WANT US  
TO GO  
DOWN  
THERE?  
...HOW  
DEEP IS  
IT?

...IT'S NOT  
A WELL  
SO DEEP  
AS A PIT,  
HMM...?

IF WE GO  
THROUGH  
THERE,  
WE'LL COME  
OUT IN AN  
OLD WELL IN  
THE MOUNT-  
AINS.

IF  
YOU GO  
DOWN FAR  
ENOUGH,  
IT BRINGS  
OFF INTO A  
BIG TUN-  
NEL.



I'M  
GOING  
FIRST!  
!

JUST  
A...



WELL,  
YOU KNOW  
THE MOST  
ABOUT THE  
WELL, ONE,  
SO WE  
KNOW WHO'S  
GOING  
FIRST.

AFTER  
YOU.







AND NOW  
I FINALLY  
HAVE A  
CHANCE  
TO MAKE  
IT UP TO  
YOU.

I'VE  
ALWAYS  
FELT BAD  
ABOUT  
THAT.



MON-  
GAL...



...  
SHION  
...

SHI...



I CAN'T  
THINK OF  
A BETTER  
TIME TO  
OPEN IT.

...GIVE  
ME THE  
KEY TO  
THE AR-  
MORY



SHION







YOU  
KNOW THE CLINIC THE  
BEST OF ALL  
OF US. WITHOUT  
YOU, WE WON'T  
BE ABLE TO SAVE  
TORTOISE FROM  
THE CLINIC  
BAGGEMENT



...YOU  
CAN'T AS-  
SIGN DANCE  
TO PEOPLE'S  
LIVES. BUT  
THIS IS ONE  
TIME WHERE  
WE HAVE TO  
PUT THINGS  
IN ORDER.

AFTER  
RIKA-  
CHAN'S,  
YOUR  
LIFE IS  
THE MOST  
VALUABLE  
RIGHT  
NOW.



I KNOW.  
YOU ALL  
HURRY  
TOO...

RIKA-  
SAN, BE  
CARE-  
FUL!



...AM!



I UNDER-  
STAND...

RM...









BEAUTIFUL  
WOMEN  
DON'T DIE.  
☆

DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
ME.



...THEN IF  
I HAVE TO  
GIVE YOU  
A LECTURE  
ON HOW  
TO USE A  
KALASH-  
NIKOV

BUT  
WE'LL LOSE  
LESS TIME  
IF YOU TAKE  
YOUR TURN  
GOING  
DOWN THE  
LADDER...



WHAT  
WAS  
THAT  
...??

...THEY  
PROBABLY  
JUST BROKE  
DOWN THE  
DOOR TO THE  
TORTURE  
CHAMBER.

THAT  
MEANS WE'RE  
DOWN TO ONE  
DOOR  
BETWEEN  
US AND THE  
ENEMY.



GO,  
KEI-CHAN.  
HURRY  
DOWN THE  
LADDER.



KEI-  
CHAN-  
HURRY  
!!



YOU GO  
DOWN  
FIRST!!

NO,  
SHION!



I DON'T  
HAVE  
THE ONE  
I LOVE  
ANY-  
MORE.



IF I LET YOU  
GO, KEI-CHAN, I  
WON'T  
HOLD YOU  
DON'T. YOU  
WILL HAVE  
US FOR THE  
REST OF  
OUR  
LIVES.







...I HOPE  
WE CAN BE  
TWINS IN  
THE NEXT  
LIFE TOO.



YOU  
NEED TO  
GO.

SHION...



I'M NOT  
PLANNING  
ON DYING  
HERE, BUT  
WHEN YOU  
GET DOWN  
THERE, TELL  
"SHION"...

KEI-  
CHAN.



SHION...



...IF WE'RE  
REINCAR-  
NATED...















DRA



I DON'T WANT A FUTURE WHERE SOMEONE ELSE CAN TAKE MY PLACE.

THIS IS THE LAST WORLD IT



.....



WE CAN'T LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND.



SO NO! NO, WE CAN'T LEAVE THEM! NEVER!!

I KNOW I CAN'T DO IT OVER AGAIN!

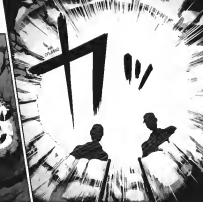
**HURRY  
AND  
GET  
DOWN  
HERE  
!!!**

**SO  
SHION!**









STOP  
YOUR  
FUTILE  
RESIS-  
TANCE.

WE'VE  
TAKEN  
CONTROL  
OF THE  
AREA.

CAN  
YOU  
HEAR  
US?



...YOU  
MURDER-  
ERS!!

YOU  
...

NOW  
COULD  
YOU'P  
NOW  
COULD  
YOU'P  
KILL  
SAYON  
!!!?



10  
NO  
DIALOG

WHA  
...

...WH-  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN...?



YOU  
MEAN  
THE  
GIRL UP  
HERE?

RELAX.  
SHE'S  
STILL  
ALIVE.



THE SAME  
GONE FOR  
THE MAN.  
HE'S ALIVE  
TOO.

SHE'S  
ALIVE.  
DON'T  
WORRY  
IT



...WHETHER  
OR NOT  
THEY STAY  
ALIVE IS  
UP TO  
YOU.

BUT...





GIVE  
US  
RIKA  
FURUDE  
AND  
KYO-  
SUKE  
IRIE!



...  
SHION  
!!

SH...



COMPLY  
OR  
WE'LL  
DROP  
THE  
HOS-  
TAGEE!





GIVE  
US RIKA  
FLURIDE  
AND  
KIOSUME  
TIE.



**CHAPTER 28: I'M HERE TO HELP YOU**



THEY'RE  
GOING  
TO KILL  
SHION...

WH-~~WH~~  
WHAT DO  
WE DO...?



DON'T  
YOU KNOW  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT  
MORTALITY?  
WHEN YOU  
HAVE MORE  
THAN ONE,  
YOU CAN  
KILL AS  
MANY  
AS YOU  
WISH!

WHAT  
IF



TH-  
THEY'RE  
BLUFF-  
ING...

THEY  
WOULDN'T  
DROP  
HER...



...AND  
MAKE THE  
SAME  
DEMANDS  
ON US  
AGAIN!

THEY  
HAVE  
SHION  
AND  
KASAI-  
SAN UP  
THERE.

THEY'LL  
PUSH  
SHION  
DOWN...



IF YOU GO UP THERE, COACH, EVERYTHING SHI-CHAN DID WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING.

SHI-CHAN STAYED UP THERE TO GIVE US TIME TO GET AWAY.



WE'LL TELL THEM THAT RENA-SAN HAS ALREADY ESCAPED...

...I'M THE ONE THEY WANT.

...AND I'LL GO ALONE.



...NO.



YOU...!

RENA!



I FEEL LIKE MY HEART IS ABOUT TO BREAK TOO.



PLEASE STOP THAT, MION-SAN!

SARON... SARON IS...!

ARE YOU SAYING SARON SHOULD DIE?















RIKA...



ONCE I  
STARTED  
THINKING  
ABOUT IT, IT  
WAS VERY  
SIMPLE,  
SIR.



I BELIEVE  
IN YOU.

I KNOW  
YOU'LL ALL  
COME TO  
SAVE ME.



EVEN  
A GOD  
BELIEVES.



WE ALL  
BELIEVE  
THAT  
WE WILL  
WIN.



...SO WE'RE  
NOT IN ANY  
TROUBLE AT  
ALL, SIRS.



IN  
EXCHANGE,  
PLEASE  
LET MY  
FRIENDS  
GET AWAY,  
SIRS.

...I'M  
COMING  
UP.



ALL  
RIGHT.

.....



RIKA-  
CHAN...

NGH  
...



~~~~~









YOU
YOU
DIRTY
COW-
ARD...!



HEH-
HEH-HEH-
HEH!

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKIN'
ABOUT?



!!

MMPH
...!



AND
WE CAN'T
HAVE HER
BITIN' HER
TONGUE
ON US.

HEH.

AMMM!!

AMMM-
AMMM!!

IF HE
GIVES
ME THAT
INJECTION,
THAT WILL
BE THE END
OF THIS
WORLD.
THIS
SHOT
WILL MOST
LIKELY
KNOCK ME
OUT UNTIL
IT'S TIME
TO KILL
ME.



GIVE
HER THE
INJECTION.





WE WON'T
LOSE.
WE CAN'T
LOSE.

WE'RE
ALL GOING
TO WORK
TOGETHER
TO MAKE A
MIRACLE!



...ARE WE
GOING TO
LOSE TO
TAKANO
AGAIN?









YOU'RE
NOT
ONE OF
US!!

WHO
ARE
YOU?!



I'M
GOING
TO SAY
THE ONE
THING...

...I'VE
BEEN
WANTING
TO SAY
ALL THIS
TIME..



I'VE
REGRET-
TED IT IN
TOO MANY
WORLDS
TO COUNT.

EVERY
TIME I
REALIZED,
IT WAS
ALWAYS
TOO
LATE...



**RIKA-
CHAN.
I'M
HERE...**

**...TO
HELP
YOU!!**



...AKA-
SAKAAA
...!!!



...A...

...A...



IT'S
OKAY
NOW.

I DISGUISED
MYSELF AS A
WILD DOG AND
WAITED FOR
THE RIGHT
MOMENT.

BUT IT
WAS A
WEIGHTY
PROM-
ISE...

THE
PROMISE
WAS
MADE
FIVE
YEARS
AGO.

...ONE
THAT
WOULD
NEVER
BE FUL-
FILLED
AFTER
ONLY
FIVE
YEARS'
TIME.



**JUNE
1983,
HINA-
MI-
ZAWA**

HE
TRAINED
HIS
BODY,
BELIEV-
ING
THAT
MIRA-
CLES
COULD
HAP-
PEN.



THERE
WAS A
MAN WHO
SUFFERED
FOR A
HUNDRED
YEARS
THROUGH
MANY
WORLDS
THE
REGRET
OF
FAILING
TO SAVE
ONE
GIRL.



THEIR
FEEL-
INGS
ARE
NOW
MAK-
ING A
MIRA-
CLE.



THERE
WAS A
GIRL WHO
WAITED
FOR THE
MAN
THROUGH
COUNT-
LESS
WORLDS,
WISHING
FOR
HIM TO
COME.

THIS
PROMISE...
IS A VOW
SPANNING
MORE THAN
A HUNDRED
YEARS.



A black and white manga panel. A young man with dark hair and a serious expression is in the upper half of the frame, looking down. He is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. A young woman with long dark hair and glasses is in the lower half, looking up at him with a slight smile. She is wearing a dark dress. The background shows some foliage.

**...HAS
COME
IN
TIME
TO
SAVE
RIKA
FURU-
DE!!**

**AT
LAST,
MA-
MORU
AKA-
SAKA...**





...AKA-
SAKA
HELD
NOTH-
ING
BACK
!!





AKA-SAKA'S COLLEAGUES ...

...PRAISED AND FEARED HIS STRENGTH !!



THEY USED TO SAY...



...HE WAS AS POWERFUL...



HE SHOWED NOT AN OUNCE OF MERCY!!

THUS HE PUT DOWN HIS OPPONENTS IN A SINGLE BLOW !!



HE WAS THE EMBODIMENT OF PURE KARATE!!

EVERY PUNCH FELLED A FOE!!





...AS AN ARMOR-PIERCING BULLET!





I'LL WAIT
HERE AND
DRAW
PICTURES.
SEN!

MEW!
☆



DON'T
WORRY,
RIKA-
CHAN.

AS LONG AS
I'M HERE, I
WON'T LET
THEM LAY A
FINGER ON
YOU.



SA
CHERRY
H...
...



GUESS
THAT
MEANS
...



SOME OF
THESE WILD
DOGS ARE
BELLIED
FIGHTERS, BUT
YOU'RE TELLIN'
ME THAT EVEN
A BUNCH OF 'EM
IS NO MATCH
AGAINST
SEN!

HEH
HEH
HEH...
YOU'RE
GOOD...



...ONLY
A COMBAT
SPECIALIST
LIKE ME
CAN GIVE
YOU A RUN
FOR YOUR
MONEY.







I CAN'T
HOLD
BACK!
DON'T
HOLD IT
AGAINST
ME IF I
ACCIDEN-
TALLY
KILL
YOU!

...I'M
REAL
HAPPY
NOW!

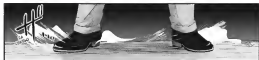


IT
DIDN'T
STAND A
CHANCE
AGAINST
MY
MILITARY
MARTIAL
ARTS!

YOUR
FIGHT-
ING
STYLE
IS
KARATE!



I EAT
YOU BY-
THE-BOOK
KARATE
GUYS FOR
BREAK-
FAST!!











UWAA-
AAAA-
AAAH
!!?



WHAT...

...WHAT
IS HE...?



HE'S
WALKED
ACROSS
HIS SHARE
OF BATTLE-
FIELDS...

は
...
LEADS



HE'S
TROUBLE.
THE
WAY HE
MOVES...

...HIS
RUTH-
LESS-
NESS.





THE
HEART OF
MARTIAL
ARTS ISN'T
IN THE
FORM.

THE OUT-
WARD FORM
IS USED AS
A MEANS TO
GET TO THE
HEART.



...YOU'RE
ONLY
LOOKING
AT ONE
ASPECT
OF
MARTIAL
ARTS.

D-
DON'T
LIE TO
ME...!



...I'M
DEAD-
POINTED
IN YOU.



...BKK?

LET ME
TEACH
YOU
ABOUT
TRUE
WEIGHT.

YOU
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT IT
MEANS
TO HIT
SOME-
ONE.





HE'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MAN THAN THE NEWBIE I FOUGHT FIVE YEARS AGO.

HE'S A MONSTER, PURE AND SIMPLE.





BUT...!



**I'M A PRO.
A PROFESSIONAL.**

**I WAS
WITH THE
ARMED
FORCES.**



**...WON'T
LET ME
LOSE TO
THIS
AMATEUR
...!!**



**...AND MY
PRIDE...**

**MY
EXPERI-
ENCE...**



WELL,
GOOD
FOR
YOU.



RRRR-
RRRA-
AAAA-
AAGH!



OF THE
WILD
DOGS!!

I AM
OKO-
NOGI!



**...DO
THEY
PAY
YOU?**

**AND
HOW
MUCH...**







THAT'S
ALL IT
WAS,
SIR.

WE'RE ALL COMBINING
OUR
STRENGTH,
AND SO
AKASAKA,
ONE OF US,
CAME TO
HELP.



I'M FINE,
THANKS
TO A
MIRACLE.

IT'S 16
LOON-
ING
AFTER
SHON
NOW.

WE'RE
GLAD
YOU'RE
SAFE,
RYKA. SIR.



IT
WASN'T A
MIRACLE,
SIR.



YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT!

NOW
IT'S
OUR
TURN
TO TAKE
THE
OFFEN-
SIVE,
SIR!



THEN
LET'S
GET
READY!



ALL
RIGHT!



NOW WE
KNOW
WITHOUT
A DOUBT
THAT
THE WILD
DOGS ARE
RUNNING
WILD.

IF
TOMITAKE
REPORTS
THIS TO THE
WATCHDOGS,
THEN THEY'LL
SEND
BACKUP.



IT'S TIME
TO START
OPERATION
RESCUE
TOMITAKE-
SAN!

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING AGE



KISAKUCHI WHEN THEY CRY

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TRANSLATED BY

ABOUT THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING" ARC: TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE. THREE HEADS ARE BETTER THAN TWO.

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHIOT

HELLO, I'M RYUKISHIOT.

NOW EVEN THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING" ARC HAS REACHED ITS FINAL STAGES.

THIS IS ALSO THE VOLUME WHERE THE GROWN-UPS FIGHT THEIR BATTLES. ESPECIALLY GOUSHI! HE MAKES PEACE AND JOINS FORCES WITH THE SONOZAKI FAMILY—ONCE HIS POWERFUL ENEMY WITH A STRONG INFLUENCE ON EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE—AND TOGETHER THEY REPEL OOTAKA. I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE HE'S SO WELL LOVED THAT HE WAS ABLE TO COME OUT VICTORIOUS. BECAUSE IF GOUSHI HAD LOST HIS BATTLE, OPERATION FORTY-EIGHT HOURS WOULD HAVE ENDED IN FAILURE. AS FOR OOTAKA...I GET THE FEELING THAT HE'S YOUR TYPICAL PUNCHING BAG CHARACTER. (HA-HA)

THIS VOLUME ALSO INCLUDED TOMITAKE'S BIG MOMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT. TOMITAKE, THE MAN WHO STOPS AT NOTHING TO HELP THE WOMAN HE LOVES. I NEVER EVEN DREAMED THAT HE WOULD GET TO BE SUCH A BELOVED CHARACTER.

"THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO PROTECT, EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY OWN LIFE...I CAN'T AFFORD TO STOP BECAUSE I'M HELPING THE ONE I WANT TO PROTECT." I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING THAT COOL. BUT IN THE END, IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH TO CATCH HIM. (HA-HA)

IS THERE SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU WHO'S LIKE TOMITAKE? WHEN YOUR FRIEND IS AGONIZING ABOUT SOMETHING ALL ON THEIR OWN, PLEASE BE THERE FOR THEM SO THAT YOU CAN AGONIZE AND THINK ABOUT THE PROBLEM WITH THEM. TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE. THREE HEADS ARE BETTER THAN TWO. AS THE CIRCLE EXPANDS, EVENTUALLY IT BECOMES GREAT POWER.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE A PART OF THAT CIRCLE...





...BUT YOUR
SUPPORT
WILL LEAD
US TO
VICTORY.

TO THOSE
OF YOU ON
THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE
FRAGMENT.
I DON'T
KNOW YOUR
FACES...

BELIEVE IN
OUR VICTORY
AND GIVE US
THE POWER
TO MAKE A
MIRACLE.

I'M SURE
THEY
WILL ALL
SUPPORT
US, SIR.

IT'S
ALL
RIGHT,
RIKA,
SIR.

I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT.

カッ...
SITTING
CLANK



**BE MY
SUPPORT-
ERS.**

**I'LL
PAY YOU
A SALARY
AND GIVE
YOU A
LITTLE
REWARD!**

ホー

**EVEN IF
YOU DO
GROW UP,
THERE'S NO
GUARANTEE
THAT YOUR
CHEST WILL
GROW TOO,
GIRL.**

**YOU'LL
REGRET
THIS, AND
DON'T
COME
CRYING
TO ME
WHEN YOU
DO, SIRS!**

**JUST
GIVE ME
TEN YEARS!
I'LL HAVE
SURPASSED
TAKANO,
SIRS!**



THANK YOU FOR READING THIS FAR. BEFORE I DRAW THE ROUGH DRAFTS OF THE MANGA, I PLAY THROUGH THE VISUAL NOVEL FOR A REVIEW. BUT THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING" ARC IS ONE CLIMACTIC BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER, SO I GET VERY ABSORBED IN IT BECAUSE IT'S SO GOOD. (OF COURSE, ALL OF THE ARCS ARE GOOD.) AKASAKA'S KARATE SKILLS ARE UNBELIEVABLE. AREN'T THEY? I GET LIFE WOULD BE REALLY FUN IF I COULD GET THAT GOOD AT MARTIAL ARTS. I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT THE ANGEL MORT COSTUME, WHICH I'VE DRAWN REGULARLY SINCE THE "ABDUCTED BY DEMONS" ARC, WASN'T SHOWN UP IN A REALLY LONG TIME, AND I GOT JUST A LITTLE DEPRESSED.

THE BATTLE SURROUNDING RIXA-CHAMA STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO. I HOPE YOU WILL WATCH OVER THE DEAD HEAT BETWEEN TAKANO'S WILL AND THE CLUB MEMBERS' WILLS UNTIL IT'S ALL OVER.

-SPECIAL THANKS-

-ORIGINAL STORY SUPERVISOR-
FUKUSHIRO-SAMA, BT-SAMA,
KOTAZAKURA-SAMA, TOKORI-SAMA,
TSUBAKI MARUKE-SAMA,
NEMOTOAKIRA-SAMA, KAKIKU-SAMA

-MY EDITORS-
KOTELMI-SAMA, KUSUDA-SAMA

-MY STAFF-
JUN AKASAKI-SAMA, SHIBETOMO
TAKAKURA-SAMA, KATU T-SAMA,
NINHO-SAMA, MOON-SAMA,
TOMOKA FURUTA-SAMA, YF-SAMA

AND YOU!

*KARIN
SUZURAKI*

I WAS
JUST
SNEAKING
IN TO THE
SAIGUDEN
TO LOOK
AROUND,
BUT THEY
GOT MY
PICTURE.

LOOK, THEY
THINK I'M
ONASHIRO-
SAMA.
TED-HEE-HEE-
HEE-HEE.

THE
PHOTOGRAPHER
SAW IT
ALL! THE
SHADOW
OF A
VENGEFUL
SPIRIT,
WIT-
NESSED
IN THE
SAIGUDEN.

I'M NOT
THAT
CREEPY
LOOKING,
SIR!!

DOES
OYA-
SHIRO-
SAMA
REALLY
EXIST?





Mrs. Andrew
 Postmaster
 Office
 Boston
 Mass.
 U.S.A.

YOUR
FLOOR
TWO
FAMILY
AND
OFFICE
SPACE
YOUR
OFFICE
TO
GROW
ABOUT
WE
THINK
START
FOR
SOLUTIONS

YOU
GOOD-
FOR-
NOTH-
ING
OLD
MAN?

PAPA...

1000

I HOPE
YOU'LL STOP
HAVING SUCH
PERVERTED
FANTASIES
IN MY
ABSENCE!
I HOPE!

七

HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC ③

RYUKISHI07
Karin Suzuragi

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Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY Festival Accompanying Arc, Vol. 5, 6
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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

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First Yen Press ebook Edition: April 2014

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-23783-3

App ISBN: 978-0-316-23894-6